



03-28-00 H

Patent Application Transmittal

(only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b))

Correspondence Address:
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10151
TEL: (212) 588-0800
FAX: (212) 588-0500

03/27/00
JC583 U.S. PTO
09/536056

Date: March 27, 2000
Attorney Docket No.: 450100-02414

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

With reference to the filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office of an application for patent in the name(s) of:

Teppei YOKOTA, Nobuyuki KIHARA

entitled:

NON-VOLATILE RECORD MEDIUM, RECORDING METHOD, AND RECORDING APPARATUS

The following are enclosed:

- Specification (92 pages)
 29 Sheet(s) of Drawings
 21 Claim(s) (including 3 independent claim(s))
 This application contains a multiple dependent claim
 Our check for \$ 708.00, calculated on the basis of the claims as amended by any enclosed preliminary amendment as follows:
- | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Basic Fee, \$690.00 (\$345.00) | 18.00 | \$ 690.00 | |
| Number of Claims in excess of 20 at \$18.00 (\$9.00) each: | 1 | | 18.00 |
| Number of Independent Claims in excess of 3 at \$78.00 (\$39.00) each: | | -0- | |
| Multiple Dependent Claim Fee at \$260.00 (\$130.00) | | -0- | |
| Total Filing Fee | | \$ 708.00 | |
| Assignment Recording Fee \$40.00 | | -0- | |

- Oath or Declaration and Power of Attorney
 New signed unsigned
 Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. 1.63(d))

- Certified copy of each of the following application(s) to substantiate the claim(s) for priority made in the Declaration:

Application No. Filed In

Please charge any additional fees required for the filing of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By William S. Frommer
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

745 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10151

WILLIAM S. FROMMER
WILLIAM F. LAWRENCE
EDGAR H. HAUG
MATTHEW K. RYAN
BARRY S. WHITE
THOMAS J. KOWALSKI
JOHN R. LANE
DENNIS M. SMID*
DANIEL G. BROWN
BARBARA Z. MORRISSEY
STEVEN M. AMUNDSON
MARILYN MATTHES BROGAN
JAMES K. STRONSKI

A. THOMAS S. SAFFORD
JEROME ROSENSTOCK
RAYMOND R. WITTEKIND, PH.D.
Of Counsel

GORDON KESSLER
MARK W. RUSSELL*
BRUNO POLITO
GRACE L. PAN*
JEFFREY A. HOVDEN
JOE H. SHALLENBURGER
CHRISTIAN M. SMOLIZZA
GLENN E. SAVIT
ROBERT E. COLLETTI
DEXTER T. CHANG
PETER J. WAIBEL*
LINDSEY A. MOHLE
DEENA P. LEVY
*Admitted to a Bar
other than New York

March 27, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application
Applicants: Teppei YOKOTA, Nobuyuki KIHARA
Our Ref.: 450100-02414

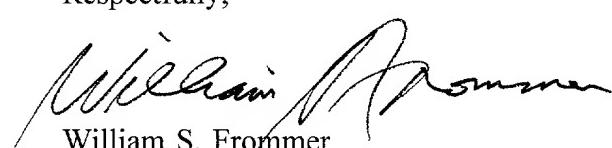
Dear Sir:

Enclosed are papers constituting the above patent application which is being filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.53 without a signed Declaration. Please accord a filing date and a serial number to such application and inform the undersigned thereof so that a signed Declaration and the surcharge required by 37 C.F.R. 1.16(e) may be duly filed.

Please address all correspondence to:

William S. Frommer, Esq.
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

Respectfully,


William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
Attorney for Applicants
Enclosures

PATENT
450100-02414

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT

TITLE: NON-VOLATILE RECORD MEDIUM, RECORDING
METHOD, AND RECORDING APPARATUS

INVENTORS: Teppei YOKOTA, Nobuyuki KIHARA

William S. Frommer
Registration No. 25,506
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151
Tel. (212) 588-0800

NON-VOLATILE RECORD MEDIUM, RECORDING METHOD, AND
RECORDING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a non-volatile record medium, a recording method, and a recording apparatus that allow digital audio data that has been compressed at a variable rate to be block-segmented corresponding to the data length of an encoding process, the data unit of an editing process, and a recordable time .

10 Description of the Related Art

15 EEPROM (Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM) that is an electrically rewritable non-volatile memory requires a large space because each bit is composed of two transistors. Thus, the integration of EEPROM is restricted. To solve this problem, a flash memory that allows one bit to be accomplished with one transistor using all-bit-erase system has been developed. The flash memory is being expected as a successor of conventional record mediums such as magnetic disks and optical discs.

20 A memory card using a flash memory is also known. The memory card can be freely attached to an apparatus and detached therefrom. A digital audio recording/reproducing apparatus that uses a memory card instead of a conventional CD (Compact Disc:Trademark)

or MD (Mini Disc:Trademark) can be accomplished.

A file management system used for a conventional personal computer is named FAT (File Allocation Table). In the FAT system, when a particular file is defined, predetermined parameters are successively set to the file. Thus, the size of a file becomes variable. One file is composed of at least one management unit (sector, cluster, or the like). Data corresponding to the management unit is written to a table referred to as FAT. In the FAT file system, a file structure can be easily formed regardless of the physical characteristics of a record medium. Thus, the FAT file system can be used for a magneto-optical disc as well as a floppy disk and a hard disk. In the above-mentioned memory card, the FAT file system is used.

However, a CD on which audio data is recorded does not have the concept of the FAT system at all. In the era of the MD with which audio data can be recorded and reproduced, music programs are recorded and edited using an FAT modified system called Link-P. Thus, the system itself can be controlled with a low power CPU. However, using such a system, data cannot be exchanged with a personal computer. Thus, the MD system has been developed as an isolated AV system.

Audio data recorded on an MD is sampled with 16 bits at 44.1 kHz. 512 samples of audio data are

compressed to 212 bytes. Thus, the following relation is satisfied.

$$212 \times 8 / (512 \times 16) = 0.21$$

In other words, audio data recorded on an MD is compressed so that the data amount of the compressed audio data becomes around 1/5 of the data amount of the original data. The data value of 212 bytes basically depends on the sector structure of a record medium. In other words, as long as the data value is an integer, one of 211 bytes, 212 bytes, 213 bytes, 214 bytes, and 215 bytes can be selected.

In recent years, with respect to digital recording of music data, the rights of copyright owners should be adequately protected. In other words, using technologies of personal computers, digital music data can be easily copied. To prevent digital music data from being illegally copied, a next generation audio data that is encrypted has been proposed.

When audio data is encrypted corresponding to DES (Data Encrypting Standard), after audio data is compressed, it is encrypted. Since an encrypting key used in the encrypting process has around 64 bits (= 56 bits + 8 bits (CRC) (thus, 8 bytes)), when audio data is encrypted with the 64-bit key, because of the data unit of the compressing process, factions take place. For example, in the case of audio data of an MD, since $212 / 8 = 26.5$, when the encrypting process is

performed 27 times, data becomes insufficient.

To compensate the insufficient data, when four-byte data is added as dummy data, the problem of fractions can be solved. However, a data loss of around 2 % ($4 / 212 = 0.019$) takes place. When 215 bytes are selected as the compression data unit, dummy data of seven bytes is required. The data loss amounts to around 3.3 % ($7 / 215 = 0.0326$). When a memory card of 64 Mbytes is used, the data loss of 3.3 % is equivalent to data of 2.1 Mbytes. At the present time, such a data loss is a critical problem in such an expensive memory card.

Although dummy data added for fractions may be used as sub-data having secondary information, since it is troublesome to manage dispersed data, this method will not be effective countermeasures.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a non-volatile record medium, a recording method, and a recording apparatus that allow an encrypting process to be effectively performed.

A first aspect of the present invention is a non-volatile recording medium for recording a digital audio signal that has been compressed at a compression rate selectable in a predetermined range and block-segmented in a predetermined data length, wherein the predetermined data length of which the digital audio

data is block-segmented is decided in consideration of the maximum recordable time and the data length of which the digital audio signal is encrypted.

A second aspect of the present invention is a recording method for recording a digital audio signal that has been compressed at a compression rate selectable in a predetermined range and block-segmented in a predetermined data length to a non-volatile record medium, comprising the steps of deciding the predetermined data length of which the digital audio signal is block-segmented corresponding to the maximum recordable time and the data length of which the digital audio signal is encrypted, block-segmenting the encrypted digital audio signal corresponding to the decided predetermined data length, and recording the block-segmented digital audio signal to the non-volatile record medium.

A third aspect of the present invention is a recording apparatus for recording a digital audio signal that has been compressed at a compression rate selectable in a predetermined range and block-segmented in a predetermined data length to a non-volatile record medium, comprising a memory means having a table for deciding the predetermined data length of which the digital audio signal is block-segmented corresponding to the maximum recordable time and the data length of which the compressed digital audio signal is encrypted,

a selecting means for selecting a predetermined compression rate in the predetermined range, a deciding means for deciding the predetermined data length of which the encrypted digital audio signal is block-segmented with reference to the table of the memory means corresponding to the predetermined compression rate selected by the selecting means,

5
10 a block-segmenting means for block-segmenting the encrypted digital audio signal corresponding to the predetermined data length decided by the deciding means, and a recording means for recording the digital audio signal block segmented by the block segmenting means to the non-volatile record medium.

15 These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent in light of the following detailed description of a best mode embodiment thereof, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the structure of a digital audio player using a nonvolatile memory card according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the internal structure of a DSP 30 according to the present invention;

25 Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the internal structure of a memory card 40 according to the

present invention;

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing a file management structure of a memory card as a storage medium according to the present invention;

5 Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram showing the physical structure of data in a flash memory 42 of the memory card 40 according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a data structure of the memory card 40 according to the present invention;

10 Fig. 7 is a schematic diagram showing the hierarchy of the file structure in the memory card 40;

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a reproduction management file PBLIST.MSF that is a sub directory stored in the memory card 40;

15 Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure in the case that one ATRAC3 data file is divided into blocks with a predetermined unit length and that attribute files are added thereto;

20 Fig. 10A is a schematic diagram showing the file structure before two files are edited with a combining process;

Fig. 10B is a schematic diagram showing the file structure after two files are edited with a combining process;

25 Fig. 10C is a schematic diagram showing the file structure after one file is edited with a dividing

process;

Fig. 11 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a reproduction management file PBLIST;

5 Fig. 12A is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a header portion of the reproduction management file PBLIST;

Fig. 12B is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a main data portion of the reproduction management file PBLIST;

10 Fig. 12C is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of an additional information data portion of the reproduction management file PBLIST;

15 Fig. 13 is a table that correlates showing types of additional information data and code values thereof;

Fig. 14 is a table that correlates types of additional information data and code values thereof;

20 Fig. 15 is a table that correlates types of additional information data and code values thereof;

Fig. 16A is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of additional information data;

25 Fig. 16B is a schematic diagram showing the data structure in the case that additional information data is an artist name;

Fig. 16C is a schematic diagram showing the data structure in the case that additional information

data is a copyright code;

Fig. 16D is a schematic diagram showing the data structure in the case that additional information data is date/time information;

5 Fig. 16E is a schematic diagram showing the data structure in the case that additional information data is a reproduction log;

Fig. 17 is a schematic diagram showing a detailed data structure of an ATRAC3 data file;

10 Fig. 18 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of an upper portion of an attribute header that composes an ATRAC3 data file;

15 Fig. 19 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a middle portion of the attribute header that composes an ATRAC3 data file;

Fig. 20 is a table that correlates record modes, record time, and so forth;

20 Fig. 21 is a table showing copy control states;

Fig. 22 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a lower portion of the attribute header that composes an ATRAC3 data file;

25 Fig. 23 is a schematic diagram showing the data structure of a header of a data block of an ATRAC3 data file;

Figs. 24A to 24C are flow charts showing a recovering method according to the present invention in

the case that an FTA area was destroyed;

Fig. 25 is a schematic diagram showing the file structure in the memory card 40 according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 26 is a schematic diagram showing the relation between a track information management file TRKLIST.MSF and an ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnnn.MSA;

10 Fig. 27 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of the track information management file TRKLIST.MSF;

Fig. 28 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of NAME1 for managing a name;

15 Fig. 29 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of NAME2 for managing a name;

Fig. 30 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of an ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnnn.MSA;

20 Fig. 31 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of INFLIST.MSF that represents additional information;

Fig. 32 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of INFLIST.MSF that represents additional information data;

25 Fig. 33 is a flow chart showing a recovering method according to the second embodiment of the present invention in the case that an FAT area was destroyed; and

Fig. 34 is a table showing the relation between data bytes and transmission rates according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

5 Next, an embodiment of the present invention will be described. Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the structure of a digital audio recorder/player using a memory card according to an embodiment of the present invention. The digital audio recorder/player records and reproduces a digital audio signal using a detachable memory card. In reality, the recorder/player composes an audio system along with an amplifying unit, a speaker, a CD player, an MD recorder, a tuner, and so forth. However, it should be noted that the present invention can be applied to other audio recorders. In other words, the present invention can be applied to a portable recording/reproducing apparatus. In addition, the present invention can be applied to a set top box that records a digital audio data that is circulated as a satellite data communication, a digital broadcast, or Internet. Moreover, the present invention can be applied to a system that records/reproduces moving picture data and still picture data rather than audio data. The system according to the embodiment of the present invention can record and reproduce additional information such as picture and text other than a

digital audio signal.

The recording/reproducing apparatus has an audio encoder/decoder IC 10, a security IC 20, a DSP (Digital Signal Processor) 30. Each of these devices 5 is composed of a one-chip IC. The recording/reproducing apparatus has a detachable memory card 40. The one-chip IC of the memory card 40 has flash memory (nonvolatile memory), a memory control block, and a security block. The security block has a DES (Data Encryption Standard) encrypting circuit. According to the embodiment, the recording/reproducing apparatus may use a microcomputer instead of the DSP 10 30.

The audio encoder/decoder IC 10 has an audio interface 11 and an encoder/decoder block 12. The encoder/decoder block 12 encodes a digital audio data corresponding to a highly efficient encoding method and writes the encoded data to the memory card 40. In addition, the encoder/decoder block 12 decodes encoded data that is read from the memory card 40. As the 15 20 highly efficient encoding method, the ATRAC3 format that is a modification of the ATRAC (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding) format used in Mini-Disc is used.

In the ATRAC3 format, audio data sampled at 25 44.1 kHz and quantized with 16 bits is highly efficiently encoded. In the ATRAC3 format, the minimum data unit of audio data that is processed is a sound

unit (SU). 1 SU is data of which data of 1024 samples (1024 x 16 bits x 2 channels) is compressed to data of several hundred bytes. The duration of 1 SU is around 23 msec. In the highly efficient encoding method, the data amount of audio data is compressed to data that is around 10 times smaller than that of original data. As with the ATRAC1 format used in Mini-Disc, the audio signal compressed and decompressed corresponding to the ATRAC3 format less deteriorates in the audio quality.

A line input selector 13 selectively supplies the reproduction output signal of an MD, the output signal of a tuner, or a reproduction output signal of a tape to an A/D converter 14. The A/D converter 14 converts the input line signal to a digital audio signal (sampling frequency = 44.1 kHz; the number of quantizing bits = 16). A digital input selector 16 selectively supplies a digital output signal of an MD, a CD, or a CS (Satellite Digital Broadcast) to a digital input receiver 17. The digital input signal is transmitted through for example an optical cable. An output signal of the digital input receiver 17 is supplied to a sampling rate converter 15. The sampling rate converter 15 converts the digital input signal into a digital audio signal (sampling frequency = 44.1 kHz; the number of quantizing bits = 16).

The encoder/decoder block 12 of the audio encoder/decoder IC 10 supplies encoded data to a DES

encrypting circuit 22 through an interface 21 of the security IC 20. The DES encrypting circuit 22 has a FIFO 23. The DES encrypting circuit 22 is disposed so as to protect the copyright of contents. The memory

5 card 40 also has a DES encrypting circuit. The DES

encrypting circuit 22 of the recording/reproducing apparatus has a plurality of master keys and an apparatus-unique storage key. The DES encrypting circuit 22 also has a random number generating circuit.

10 The DES encrypting circuit 22 can share an

authenticating process and a session key with the

memory card 40 that has the DES encrypting circuit. In addition, the DES encrypting circuit 22 can re-encrypt data with the storage key of the DES encrypting

15 circuit.

The encrypted audio data that is output from the DES encrypting circuit 22 is supplied to a DSP

(Digital Signal Processor) 30. The DSP 30 communicates with the memory card 40 through an interface. In this

20 example, the memory card 40 is attached to an

attaching/detaching mechanism (not shown) of the

recording/reproducing apparatus. The DSP 30 writes the encrypted data to the flash memory of the memory card

40. The encrypted data is serially transmitted between

25 the DSP 30 and the memory card 40. In addition, an

external SRAM (Static Random Access Memory) 31 is

connected to the DSP 30. The SRAM 31 provides the

recording/reproducing apparatus with a sufficient storage capacity so as to control the memory card 40.

A bus interface 32 is connected to the DSP 30. Data is supplied from an external controller (not shown) to the DSP 30 through a bus 33. The external controller controls all operations of the audio system. The external controller supplies data such as a record command or a reproduction command that is generated corresponding to a user's operation through an operation portion to the DSP 30 through the bus interface 32. In addition, the external controller supplies additional information such as image information and character information to the DSP 30 through the bus interface 32. The bus 33 is a bidirectional communication path. Additional information that is read from the memory card 40 is supplied to the external controller through the DSP 30, the bus interface 32, and the bus 33. In reality, the external controller is disposed in for example an amplifying unit of the audio system. In addition, the external controller causes a display portion to display additional information, the operation state of the recorder, and so forth. The display portion is shared by the audio system. Since data that is exchanged through the bus 33 is not copyright protected data, it is not encrypted.

The encrypted audio data that is read from

the memory card 40 by the DSP 30 is decrypted by the security IC 20. The audio encoder/decoder IC 10 decodes the encoded data corresponding to the ATRAC3 format. Output data of the audio encoder/decoder 10 is supplied to a D/A converter 18. The D/A converter 18 converts the output data of the audio encoder/decoder 10 into an analog signal. The analog audio signal is supplied to a line output terminal 19.

The analog audio signal is supplied to an amplifying unit (not shown) through the line output terminal 19. The analog audio signal is reproduced from a speaker or a head set. The external controller supplies a muting signal to the D/A converter 18. When the muting signal represents a mute-on state, the external controller prohibits the audio signal from being output from the line output terminal 19.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the internal structure of the DSP 30. Referring to Fig. 2, the DSP 30 comprises a core 34, a flash memory 35, an SRAM 36, a bus interface 37, a memory card interface 38, and inter-bus bridges. The DSP 30 has the same function as a microcomputer. The core 34 is equivalent to a CPU. The flash memory 35 stores a program that causes the DSP 30 to perform predetermined processes. The SRAM 36 and the external SRAM 31 are used as a RAM of the recording/reproducing apparatus.

The DSP 30 controls a writing process for

writing encrypted audio data and additional information
to the memory card 40 corresponding to an operation
signal such as a record command received through the
bus interfaces 32 and 37 and a reading process for
5 reading them therefrom. In other words, the DSP 30 is
disposed between the application software side of the
audio system that records/reproduces audio data and
additional information and the memory card 40. The DSP
30 is operated when the memory card 40 is accessed. In
addition, the DSP 30 is operated corresponding to
10 software such as a file system.

The DSP 30 manages files stored in the memory
card 40 with the FAT system used in conventional
personal computers. In addition to the file system,
according to the embodiment of the present invention, a
management file is used. The management file will be
described later. The management file is used to manage
data files stored in the memory card 40. The
management file as the first file management
15 information is used to manage audio data files. On the
other hand, the FAT as the second file management
information is used to manage all files including audio
data files and management files stored in the flash
memory of the memory card 40. The management file is
20 stored in the memory card 40. The FAT is written to
the flash memory along with the route directory and so
forth before the memory card 40 is shipped. The

details of the FAT will be described later.

According to the embodiment of the present invention, to protect the copyright of data, audio data that has been compressed corresponding to the ATRAC3 format is encrypted. On the other hand, since it is not necessary to protect the copyright of the management file, it is not encrypted. There are two types of memory cards that are an encryption type and a non-encryption type. However, a memory card for use with the recorder/player that records copyright protected data is limited to the encryption type.

Voice data and image data that are recorded by users are recorded on non-encryption type memory cards.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the internal structure of the memory card 40. The memory card 40 comprises a control block 41 and a flash memory 42 that are structured as a one-chip IC. A bidirectional serial interface is disposed between the DSP 30 of the recorder/player and the memory card 40. The bidirectional serial interface is composed of ten lines that are a clock line SCK for transmitting a clock signal that is transmitted along with data, a status line SBS for transmitting a signal that represents a status, a data line DIO for transmitting data, an interrupt line INT, two GND lines, two INT lines, and two reserved lines.

The clock line SCK is used for transmitting a
clock signal in synchronization with data. The status
line SBS is used for transmitting a signal that
represents the status of the memory card 40. The data
5 line DIO is used for inputting and outputting a command
and encrypted audio data. The interrupt line INT is
used for transmitting an interrupt signal that causes
the memory card 40 to interrupt the DSP 30 of the
recorder/player. When the memory card 40 is attached
10 to the recorder/player, the memory card 40 generates
the interrupt signal. However, according to the
embodiment of the present invention, since the
interrupt signal is transmitted through the data line
DIO, the interrupt line INT is grounded.

A serial/parallel converting, parallel/serial
converting, and interface block (S/P, P/S, I/F block)
43 is an interface disposed between the DSP 30 of the
recorder/player and the control block 41 of the memory
card 40. The S/P, P/S, and IF block 43 converts serial
20 data received from the DSP 30 of the recorder/player
into parallel data and supplies the parallel data to
the control block 41. In addition, the S/P, P/S, and
IF block 43 converts parallel data received from the
control block 41 into serial data and supplies the
serial data to the DSP 30. When the S/P, P/S, and IF
block 43 receives a command and data through the data
25 line DIO, the S/P, P/S, and IF block 43 separates them

into these that are normally accessed to the flash memory 42 and those that are encrypted.

In the format of which data is transmitted through the data line DIO, after a command is transmitted, data is transmitted. The S/P, P/S, and IF block 43 detects the code of a command and determines whether the command and data are those that are normally accessed or those that are encoded.

Corresponding to the determined result, the S/P, P/S, and IF block 43 stores a command that is normally accessed to a command register 44 and stores data that is normally accessed to a page buffer 45 and a write register 46. In association with the write register 46, the memory card 40 has an error correction code encoding circuit 47. The error correction code encoding circuit 47 generates a redundant code that is an error correction code for data temporarily stored in the page buffer 45.

Output data of the command register 44, the page buffer 45, the write register 46, and the error correction code encoding circuit 47 is supplied to a flash memory interface and sequencer (hereinafter, referred to as memory I/F and sequencer) 51. The memory I/F and sequencer 51 is an interface disposed between the control block 41 and the flash memory 42 and controls data exchanged therebetween. Data is written to the flash memory through the memory I/F and

sequencer 51.

Audio data that has been compressed corresponding to the ATRAC3 format and written to the flash memory (hereinafter, this audio data is referred to as ATRAC3 data) is encrypted by the security IC 20 of the recorder/player and the security block 52 of the memory card 40 so as to protect the copyright of the ATRAC3 data. The security block 52 comprises a buffer memory 53, a DES encrypting circuit 54, and a nonvolatile memory 55.

The security block 52 of the memory card 40 has a plurality of authentication keys and a unique storage key for each memory card. The nonvolatile memory 55 stores a key necessary for encrypting data. The key stored in the nonvolatile memory 55 cannot be analyzed. According to the embodiment, for example, a storage key is stored in the nonvolatile memory 55. The security block 52 also has a random number generating circuit. The security block 52 authenticates an applicable recorder/player and shares a session key therewith. In addition, the security block 52 re-encrypts contents with the storage key through the DSE encrypting circuit 54.

For example, when the memory card 40 is attached to the recorder/player, they are mutually authenticated. The security IC 20 of the recorder/player and the security block 52 of the memory

card 40 mutually authenticate. When the recorder/player has authenticated the attached memory card 40 as an applicable memory card and the memory card 40 has authenticated the recorder/player as an applicable recorder/player, they are mutually authenticated. After the mutual authenticating process has been successfully performed, the recorder/player and the memory card 40 generate respective session keys and share them with each other. Whenever the recorder/player and the memory card 40 authenticate each other, they generate respective session keys.

When contents are written to the memory card 40, the recorder/player encrypts a contents key with a session key and supplies the encrypted data to the memory card 40. The memory card 40 decrypts the contents key with the session key, re-encrypts the contents key with a storage key, and supplies the contents key to the recorder/player. The storage key is a unique key for each memory card 40. When the recorder/player receives the encrypted contents key, the recorder/player performs a formatting process for the encrypted contents key, and writes the encrypted contents key and the encrypted contents to the memory card 40.

In the above section, the writing process for the memory card 40 was described. In the following, the reading process for the memory card 40 will be

described. Data that is read from the flash memory 42
is supplied to the page buffer 45, the read register
48, and the error correction circuit 49 through the
memory IF and the sequencer 51. The error correcting
5 circuit 49 corrects an error of the data stored in the
page buffer 45. Output data of the page buffer 45 that
has been error-corrected and the output data of the
read register 48 are supplied to the S/P, P/S, and IF
block 43. The output data of the S/P, P/S, and IF
block 43 is supplied to the DSP 30 of the
recorder/player through the above-described serial
interface.

10 00000000000000000000000000000000

15 00000000000000000000000000000000

20 00000000000000000000000000000000

When data is read from the memory card 40,
the contents key encrypted with the storage key and the
contents encrypted with the block key are read from the
flash memory 42. The security block 52 decrypts the
contents key with the storage key. The security block
52 re-encrypts the decrypted content key with the
session key and transmits the re-encrypted contents key
to the recorder/player. The recorder/player decrypts
the contents key with the received session key and
generates a block key with the decrypted contents key.
The recorder/player successively decrypts the encrypted
ATRAC3 data.

25 00000000000000000000000000000000

A config. ROM 50 is a memory that stores
partition information, various types of attribute
information, and so forth of the memory card 40. The

memory card 40 also has an erase protection switch 60. When the switch 60 is in the erase protection position, even if a command that causes the memory card 40 to erase data stored in the flash memory 42 is supplied from the recorder/player side to the memory card 40, the memory card 40 is prohibited from erasing the data stored in the flash memory 42. An OSC cont. 61 is an oscillator that generates a clock signal that is the reference of the timing of the process of the memory card 40.

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing the hierarchy of the processes of the file system of the computer system that uses a memory card as a storage medium. On the hierarchy, the top hierarchical level is an application process layer. The application process layer is followed by a file management process layer, a logical address management layer, a physical address management layer, and a flash memory access layer. In the above-mentioned hierarchical structure, the file management process layer is the FAT file system. Physical addresses are assigned to individual blocks of the flash memory. The relation between the blocks of the flash memory and the physical addresses thereof does not vary. Logical addresses are addresses that are logically handled on the file management process layer.

Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram showing the

physical structure of data handled in the flash memory
42 of the memory card 40. In the memory 42, a data
unit (referred to as segment) is divided into a
predetermined number of blocks (fixed length). One
5 block is divided into a predetermined number of pages
(fixed length). In the flash memory, data is erased as
each block at a time. Data is written to the flash
memory 42 or read therefrom as a page at a time. The
size of each block is the same. Likewise, the size of
10 each page is the same. One block is composed of page 0
to page m. For example, one block has a storage
capacity of for example 8 KB (kilobytes) or 16 KB. One
page has a storage capacity of 512 B (bytes). When one
block has a storage capacity of 8 KB, the total storage
capacity of the flash memory 42 is 4 MB (512 blocks) or
15 8 MB (1024 blocks). When one block has a storage
capacity of 16 KB, the total storage capacity of the
flash memory 42 is 16 MB (1024 blocks), 32 MB (2048
blocks), or 64 MB (4096 blocks).

20 One page is composed of a data portion of 512
bytes and a redundant portion of 16 bytes. The first
three bytes of the redundant portion is an overwrite
portion that is rewritten whenever data is updated.
The first three bytes successively contain a block
25 status area, a page status area, and an update status
area. The remaining 13 bytes of the redundant portion
are fixed data that depends on the contents of the data

portion. The 13 bytes contain a management flag area (1 byte), a logical address area (2 bytes), a format reserve area (5 bytes), a dispersion information ECC area (2 bytes), and a data ECC area (3 bytes). The dispersion information ECC area contains redundant data for an error correction process against the management flag area, the logical address area, and the format reserve area. The data ECC area contains redundant data for an error correction process against 512-byte data.

The management flag area contains a system flag (1: user block, 0: boot block), a conversion table flag (1: invalid, 0: table block), a copy prohibition flag (1: OK, 0: NG), and an access permission flag (1: free, 0: read protect).

The first two blocks - blocks 0 and 1 are boot blocks. The block 1 is a backup of the block 0. The boot blocks are top blocks that are valid in the memory card. When the memory card is attached to the recorder/player, the boot blocks are accessed at first. The remaining blocks are user blocks. Page 0 of the boot block contains a header area, a system entry area, and a boot and attribute information area. Page 1 of the boot block contains a prohibited block data area. Page 2 of the boot block contains a CIS (Card Information Structure)/IDI (identify Drive Information) area.

The header area of the boot block contains a boot block ID and the number of effective entries. The system entries are the start position of prohibited block data, the data size thereof, the data type thereof, the data start position of the CIS/IDI area, the data size thereof, and the data type thereof. The boot and attribute information contains the memory card type (read only type, rewritable type, or hybrid type), the block size, the number of blocks, the number of total blocks, the security/non-security type, the card fabrication data (date of fabrication), and so forth.

GATEWAY COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC. 10

15

20

25

Since the flash memory has a restriction for the number of rewrite times due to the deterioration of the insulation film, it is necessary to prevent the same storage area (block) from being concentratedly accessed. Thus, when data at a particular logical address stored at a particular physical address is rewritten, updated data of a particular block is written to a non-used block rather than the original block. Thus, after data is updated, the relation between the logical address and the physical address changes. This process is referred to as swap process. Consequently, the same block is prevented from being concentratedly accessed. Thus, the service life of the flash memory can be prolonged.

The logical address associates with data written to the block. Even if the block of the

original data is different from the block of updated data, the address on the FAT does not change. Thus, the same data can be properly accessed. However, since the swap process is performed, a conversion table that correlates logical addresses and physical addresses is required (this table is referred to as logical-physical address conversion table). With reference to the logical-physical address conversion table, a physical address corresponding to a logical address designated on the FAT is obtained. Thus, a block designated with a physical address can be accessed.

The DSP 30 stores the logical-physical address conversion table in the SRAM. When the storage capacity of the RAM is small, the logical-physical address conversion table can be stored to the flash memory. The logical-physical address conversion table correlates logical addresses (2 bytes) sorted in the ascending order with physical addresses (2 bytes). Since the maximum storage capacity of the flash memory is 128 MB (8192 blocks), 8192 addresses can be assigned with two bytes. The logical-physical address conversion table is managed for each segment. Thus, the size of the logical-physical address conversion table is proportional to the storage capacity of the flash memory. When the storage capacity of the flash memory is 8 MB (two segments), two pages are used as the logical-physical address conversion table for each

of the segments. When the conversion table is stored
in the flash memory, a predetermined one bit of the
management flag area in the redundant portion in each
page represents whether or not the current block is a
5 block containing the logical-physical address
conversion table.

The above-described memory card can be used
with the FAT file system of a personal computer system
as with the disc shaped record medium. The flash
memory has an IPL area, a FAT area, and a route
directory area (not shown in Fig. 5). The IPL area
contains the address of a program to be initially
loaded to the memory of the recorder/player. In
addition, the IPL area contains various types of memory
information. The FAT area contains information with
respect to blocks (clusters). The FAT has defined
unused blocks, next block number, defective blocks, and
last block number. The route directory area contains
directory entries that are a file attribute, an update
date [day, month, year], file size, and so forth.
10
15
20

Next, with reference to Fig. 6, a managing
method using the FAT table will be described.

Fig. 6 is a schematic diagram showing a
memory map. The top area of the memory map is a
partition table portion. The partition table portion
25 is followed by a block area, a boot sector, a FAT area,
a FAT backup area, a root directory area, a sub

directory area, and a data area. On the memory map, logical addresses have been converted into physical addresses corresponding to the logical-physical address conversion table.

5 The boot sector, the FAT area, the FAT backup area, the root directory area, the sub directory area, and the data area are referred to as FAT partition area.

10 The partition table portion contains the start address and the end address of the FAT partition area.

15 The FAT used for a conventional floppy disk does not have such a partition table. Since the first track has only a partition table, there is a blank area. The boot sector contains the size of the FAT structure (12 bit FAT or 16 bit FAT), the cluster size, and the size of each area. The FAT is used to manage the position of a file recorded in the data area. The FAT copy area is a FAT backup area. The route directory area contains file names, start cluster addresses thereof, and various attributes thereof. The route directory area uses 32 bytes per file.

20 The sub directory area is achieved by a directory attribute file as a directory. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 6, the sub directory area has four files named PBLIST.MSF, CAT.MSF, DOG.MSF, and MAN.MFA. The sub directory area is used to manage file

names and record positions on the FAT. In other words,
the slot of the file name CAT.MSF is assigned address
"10" on the FAT. The slot of the file name DOG.MSF is
assigned address "10" on the FAT. An area after
5 cluster 2 is used as a data area. In this embodiment,
audio data that has been compressed corresponding to
the ATRAC3 format is recorded. The top slot of the
file name MAN.MSA is assigned address "110" on the FAT.
According to the embodiment of the present invention,
audio data with the file name CAT.MSF is recorded to
cluster 5 to 8. Audio data of DOG-1 as the first half
of the file with the file name DOG.MSF is recorded to
clusters 10 to 12. Audio data DOG-2 as the second half
of the file with the file name DOG.MSF is recorded in
clusters 100 and 101. Audio data with the file name
MAN.MSF is recorded in clusters 110 and 111.

In the embodiment of the present invention,
an example of which a single file is divided into two
portions and dispersedly recorded is described. In the
embodiment, an area "Empty" in the data area is a
recordable area. An area after cluster 200 is used for
20 managing file names. The file CAT.MSF is recorded to
cluster 200. The file DOG.MSF is recorded to cluster
201. The file MAN.MSF is recorded to cluster 202.
When the positions of the files are changed, the area
25 after cluster 200 is re-arranged. When the memory card
is attached, the beginning and the end of the FAT

partition area are recorded with reference to the top partition table portion. After the boot sector portion is reproduced, the root directory area and the sub directory area are reproduced. The slot of the reproduction management information PBLIST.MSF in the sub directory area is detected. Thus, the address of the end portion of the slot of the file PBLIST.MSF is obtained. In the embodiment, since address "200" is recorded at the end of the file PBLIST.MSF, cluster 200 is referenced.

The area after cluster 200 is used for managing the reproduction order of files. In the embodiment, the file CAT.MSA is the first program. The file DOG.MSA is the second program. The file MAN.MSA is the third program. After the area after cluster 200 is referenced, slots of the files CAT.MSA, DOG.MSA, and MAN.MSA are referenced. In Fig. 6, the end of the slot of the file CAT.MSA is assigned address "5". The end of the slot of the file DOG.MSA is assigned address "10". The end of the slot of the file MAN.MSA is assigned address "110". When an entry address is searched on the FAT with address "5", cluster address "6" is obtained. When an entry address is searched on the FAT with address "6", cluster address "7" is obtained. When an entry address is searched on the FAT with address "8", code "FFF" that represents the end is obtained. Thus, the file CAT.MSA uses clusters 5, 6,

7, and 8. With reference to clusters 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the data area, an area of ATRAC3 data with the file name CAT.MSA can be accessed.

Next, a method for searching the file DOG.MSF that has been dispersedly recorded will be described.

The end of the slot of the file DOG.MSA is assigned address "10". When an entry address on the FAT is searched with address "10", cluster address "11" is obtained. When an entry address on the FAT is searched with address "11" is referenced, cluster address "12" is obtained. When an entry address on the FAT is searched with address "12" is referenced, cluster address "101" is obtained. When entry address "101" is referenced, code "FFF" that represents the end is obtained. Thus, the file DOG.MSF uses clusters 10, 11, 12, 100, and 101. When clusters 10, 11, and 12 are referenced, the first part of ATRAC3 data of the file DOG.MSF can be accessed. When the clusters 100 and 101 are referenced, the second part of ATRAC3 data of the file DOG.MSF can be accessed. In addition, when an entry address is searched on the FAT with address "110", cluster address "101" is obtained. When an entry address "111" is searched on the FAT with address "101", code "FFF" that represents the end is obtained. Thus, it is clear that the file MAN.MSA uses clusters 110 and 111. As described above, data files dispersed in the flash memory can be linked and sequentially

reproduced.

According to the embodiment of the present invention, in addition to the file management system defined in the format of the memory card 40, the 5 management file is used for managing tracks and parts of music files. The management file is recorded to a user block of the flash memory 42 of the memory card 40. Thus, as will be described later, even if the FAT of the memory card 40 is destroyed, a file can be recovered.

2009-04-02 10:50:22

10

15

20

25

The management file is generated by the DSP 30. When the power of the recorder/player is turned on, the DSP 30 determines whether or not the memory card 40 has been attached to the recorder/player. When the memory card has been attached, the DSP 30 authenticates the memory card 40. When the DSP 30 has successfully authenticated the memory card 40, the DSP 30 reads the boot block of the flash memory 42. Thus, the DSP 30 reads the physical-logical address conversion table and stores the read data to the SRAM. The FAT and the route directory have been written to the flash memory of the memory card 40 before the memory card 40 is shipped. When data is recorded to the memory card 40, the management file is generated.

In other words, a record command issued by the remote controller of the user or the like is supplied to the DSP 30 from the external controller

through the bus and the bus interface 32. The encoder/decoder IC 10 compresses the received audio data and supplies the resultant ATRAC3 data to the security IC 20. The security IC 20 encrypts the ATRAC3 data. The encrypted ATRAC3 data is recorded to the flash memory 42 of the memory card 40. Thereafter, the 5 FAT and the management file are updated. Whenever a file is updated (in reality, whenever the recording process of audio data is completed), the FAT and the management file stored in the SRAMs 31 and 36 are rewritten. When the memory card 40 is detached or the power of the recorder/player is turned off, the FAT and the management file that are finally supplied from the SRAMs 31 and 36 are recorded to the flash memory 42. 10 Alternatively, whenever the recording process of audio data is completed, the FAT and the management file written in the flash memory 42 may be rewritten. When audio data is edited, the contents of the management 15 file are updated.

In the data structure according to the 20 embodiment, additional information is contained in the management file. The additional information is updated and recorded to the flash memory 42. In another data structure of the management file, an additional 25 information management file is generated besides the track management file. The additional information is supplied from the external controller to the DSP 30

through the bus and the bus interface 32. The additional information is recorded to the flash memory 42 of the memory card 40. Since the additional information is not supplied to the security IC 20, it is not encrypted. When the memory card 40 is detached from the recorder/player or the power thereof is turned off, the additional information is written from the SRAM of the DSP 30 to the flash memory 42.

Fig. 7 is a schematic diagram showing the file structure of the memory card 40. As the file structure, there are a still picture directory, a moving picture directory, a voice directory, a control directory, and a music (HIFI) directory. According to the embodiment, music programs are recorded and reproduced. Next, the music directory will be described. The music directory has two types of files. The first type is a reproduction management file BLIST.MSF (hereinafter, referred to as PBLIST). The other type is an ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnn.MSA that stores encrypted music data. The music directory can stores up to 400 ATRAC3 data files (namely, 400 music programs). ATRAC3 data files are registered to the reproduction management file and generated by the recorder/player.

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of the reproduction management file. Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram showing the file structure of

one ATRAC3 data file. The reproduction management file is a fixed-length file of 16 KB. An ATRAC3 data file is composed of an attribute header and an encrypted music data area for each music program. The attribute data has a fixed length of 16 KB. The structure of the attribute header is similar to that of the reproduction management file.

The reproduction management file shown in Fig. 8 is composed of a header, a memory card name NM-1S (for one byte code), a memory card name NM2-S (for two byte code), a program reproduction sequence table TRKTBL, and memory card additional information INF-S. The attribute header (shown in Fig. 9) at the beginning of the data file is composed of a header, a program name NM1 (for one byte code), a program name NM2 (for two byte code), track information TRKINF (such as track key information), part information PRTINF, and track additional information INF. The header contains information of the number of total parts, the attribute of the name, the size of the additional information, and so forth.

The attribute data is followed by ATRAC3 music data. The music data is block-segmented every 16 KB. Each block starts with a header. The header contains an initial value for decrypting encrypted data. Only music data of an ATRAC3 data file is encrypted. Thus, other data such as the reproduction

management file, the header, and so forth are not encrypted.

Next, with reference to Figs. 10A to 10C, the relation between music programs and ATRAC3 data files will be described. One track is equivalent to one music program. In addition, one music program is composed of one ATRAC3 data (see Fig. 9). The ATRAC3 data file is audio data that has been compressed corresponding to the ATRAC3 format. The ATRAC3 data file is recorded as a cluster at a time to the memory card 40. One cluster has a capacity of 16 KB. A plurality of files are not contained in one cluster. The minimum data erase unit of the flash memory 42 is one block. In the case of the memory card 40 for music data, a block is a synonym of a cluster. In addition, one cluster is equivalent to one sector.

One music program is basically composed of one part. However, when a music program is edited, one music program may be composed of a plurality of parts. A part is a unit of data that is successively recorded. Normally, one track is composed of one part. The connection of parts of a music program is managed with part information PRTINF in the attribute header of each music program. In other words, the part size is represented with part size PRTSIZE (4 bytes) of the part information PRTINF. The first two bytes of the part size PRTSIZE represents the number of total

clusters of the current part. The next two bytes
represent the positions of the start sound unit (SU)
and the end sound unit (SU) of the beginning and last
clusters, respectively. Hereinafter, a sound unit is
5 abbreviated as SU. With such a part notation, when
music data is edited, the movement of the music data
can be suppressed. When music data is edited for each
block, although the movement thereof can be suppressed,
the edit unit of a block is much larger than the edit
unit of a SU.

10 SU is the minimum unit of a part. In
addition, SU is the minimum data unit in the case that
audio data is compressed corresponding to the ATRAC3
format. 1 SU is audio data of which data of 1024
samples at 44.1 kHz (1024 x 16 bits x 2 channels) is
15 compressed to data that is around 10 times smaller than
that of original data. The duration of 1 SU is around
23 msec. Normally, one part is composed of several
thousand SU. When one cluster is composed of 42 SU,
20 one cluster allows a sound of one second to be
generated. The number of parts composing one track
depends on the size of the additional information.
Since the number of parts is obtained by subtracting
the header, the program name, the additional data, and
25 so forth from one block, when there is no additional
information, the maximum number of parts (645 parts)
can be used.

5

10

15

20

25

Fig. 10A is a schematic diagram showing the file structure in the case that two music programs of a CD or the like are successively recorded. The first program (file 1) is composed of for example five clusters. Since one cluster cannot contain two files of the first program and the second program, the file 2 starts from the beginning of the next cluster. Thus, the end of the part 1 corresponding to the file 1 is in the middle of one cluster and the remaining area of the cluster contains no data. Likewise, the second music program (file 2) is composed of one part. In the case of the file 1, the part size is 5. The first cluster starts at 0-th SU. The last cluster ends at 4-th SU.

There are four types of edit processes that are a divide process, a combine process, an erase process, and a move process. The divide process is performed to divide one track into two portions. When the divide process is performed, the number of total tracks increases by one. In the divide process, one file is divided into two files on the file system. Thus, in this case, the reproduction management file and the FAT are updated. The combine process is performed to combine two tracks into one track. When the combine process is performed, the number of total tracks decreases by one. In the combine process, two files are combined into one file on the file system. Thus, when the combine process is performed, the

reproduction management file and the FAT are updated. The erase process is performed to erase a track. The track numbers after the track that has been erased decrease one by one. The move process is performed to change the track sequence. Thus, when the erase process or the move process is performed, the reproduction management file and the FAT are updated.

Fig. 10B is a schematic diagram showing the combined result of two programs (file 1 and file 2) shown in Fig. 10A. As a result of the combine process, the combined file is composed of two parts. Fig. 10C is a schematic diagram showing the divided result of which one program (file 1) is divided in the middle of the cluster 2. By the divide process, the file 1 is composed of clusters 0, 1, and the beginning portion of cluster 2. The file 2 is composed of the end portion of cluster 2 and clusters 3 and 4.

As described above, according to the embodiment of the present invention, since the part notation is defined, as the combined result (see Fig. 10B), the start position of the part 1, the end position of the part 1, and the end portion of the part 2 can be defined with SU. Thus, to pack the space due to the combined result, it is not necessary to move the music data of the part 2. In addition, as the divided result (see Fig. 10C), it is not necessary to move data and pack the space at the beginning of the file 2.

Fig. 11 is a schematic diagram showing the detailed data structure of the reproduction management file PBLIST. Figs. 12A and 12B show a header portion and the remaining portion of the reproduction management file PBLIST. The size of the reproduction management file is one cluster (one block = 16 KB).
5 The size of the header shown in Fig. 12A is 32 bytes. The rest of the reproduction management file PBLIST shown in Fig. 12B contains a name NM1-S area (256 bytes) (for the memory card), a name NM2-S area (512 bytes), a contents key area, a MAC area, an S-YMDhms area, a reproduction sequence management table TRKTBL area (800 bytes), a memory card additional information INF-S area (14720 bytes), and a header information redundant area. The start positions of these areas are defined in the reproduction management file.
10
15

The first 32 bytes of (0x0000) to (0x0010) shown in Fig. 12A are used for the header. In the file, 16-byte areas are referred to as slots.

20 Referring to Fig. 12A, the header are placed in the first and second slots. The header contains the following areas. An area denoted by "Reserved" is an undefined area. Normally, in a reserved area, a null (0x00) is written. However, even if any data is written to a reserved area, the data written in the reserved is ignored. In a future version, some reserved areas may be used. In addition, data is
25

prohibited from being written to a reserved area. When an option area is not used, it is treated as a reserved area.

= BLKID-TL0 (4 bytes)

5 Meaning: BLOCKID FILE ID

Function: Identifies the top of the reproduction management file.

Value: Fixed value = "TL = 0" (for example,
0x544C2D30)

= MCode (2 bytes)

Meaning: MAKER CODE

Function: Identifies the maker and model of the recorder/player

Value: High-order 10 bits (Maker code); low-order 6 bits (model code).

= REVISION (4 bytes)

Meaning: Number of rewrite times of PBLIST

Function: Increments whenever the reproduction management file is rewritten.

20 Value: Starts at 0 and increments by 1.

= S-YMDhms (4 bytes) (Option)

Meaning: Year, month, day, hour, minute, and second recorded by the recorder/player with a reliable clock.

25 Function: Identifies the last recorded date and time.

Value: bits 25 to 31: Year 0 to 99 (1980 to

2079)

bits 21 to 24: Month 0 to 12
bits 16 to 20: Day 0 to 31
bits 11 to 15: Hour 0 to 23
5 bits 05 to 10: Minute 0 to 59
bits 00 to 04: Second 0 to 29 (two bit

interval)

= SY1C+L (2 bytes)

Meaning: Attribute of name (one byte code)
10 of memory card written in NM1-S area.

Function: Represents the character code and
the language code as one byte code.

Value: Character code (C): High-order one
15 byte

00: Non-character code, binary number
01: ASCII (American Standard Code for
Information Interchange)
02: ASCII+KANA
03: Modified 8859-1
20 81: MS-JIS
82: KS C 5601-1989
83: GB (Great Britain) 2312-80
90: S-JIS (Japanese Industrial
Standards) (for Voice)

20

25

Language code (L): Low-order one
byte

Identifies the language based on EBU

Tech 3258

standard.

00: Not set

08: German

5 09: English

0A: Spanish

0F: French

15: Italian

1D: Dutch

65: Korean

69: Japanese

75: Chinese

When data is not recorded, this area is
all 0.

15 = SN2C+L (2 bytes)

Meaning: Attribute of name of memory card in
NM2-S area.

Function: Represents the character code and
the language coded as one byte code.

20 Value: Same as SN1C+L

= SINFSIZE (2 bytes)

Meaning: Total size of additional
information of memory card in INF-S area.

Function: Represents the data size as an
increment of 16 bytes. When data is not recorded, this
area is all 0.

Value: Size: 0x0001 to 0x39C (924)

= T-TRK (2 bytes)

Meaning: TOTAL TRACK NUMBER

Function: Represents the number of total tracks.

5 Value: 1 to 0x0190 (Max. 400 tracks)

When data is recorded, this area is all 0.

= VerNo (2 bytes)

Meaning: Format version number

10 Function: Represents the major version number (high order one byte) and the minor version number (low order one byte).

Value: 0x0100 (Ver 1.0)

0x0203 (Ver 2.3)

15 Next, areas (see Fig. 13B) that preceded by the header will be described.

= NM1-S

Meaning: Name of memory card (as one byte code)

20 Function: Represents the name of the memory card as one byte code (max. 256). At the end of this area, an end code (0x00) is written. The size is calculated from the end code. When data is not recorded, null (0x00) is recorded from the beginning 25 (0x0020) of this area for at least one byte.

Value: Various character code

= NM2-S

Meaning: Name of memory card (as two byte code)

Function: Represents the name of the memory card as two byte code (max. 512). At the end of this area, an end code (0x00) is written. The size is calculated from the end code. When data is not recorded, null (0x00) is recorded from the beginning (0x0120) of this area for at least two bytes.

Value: Various character code

= CONTENTS KEY

Meaning: Value for music program. Protected with MG(M) and stored. Same as CONTENTS KEY.

Function: Used as a key necessary for calculating MAC of S-YMDhms.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

= MAC

Meaning: Forged copyright information check value

Function: Represents the value generated with S-YMDhms and CONTENTS KEY.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

= TRK-nnn

Meaning: SQN (sequence) number of ATRAC3 data file reproduced.

Function: Represents FNo of TRKINF.

Value: 1 to 400 (0x190)

When there is no track, this area is all

0.

= INF-S

Meaning: Additional information of memory
card (for example, information with respect to photos,
songs, guides, etc.)

Function: Represents variable length
additional information with a header. A plurality of
types of additional information may be used. Each of
the types of additional information has an ID and a
data size. Each additional information area including
a header is composed of at least 16 bytes and a
multiple of 4 bytes. For details, see the following
section.

Value: Refer to the section of "Data
Structure of Additional Information".

= S-YMDhms (4 bytes) (Option)

Meaning: Year, month, day, hour, minute, and
second recorded by the recorder/player with a reliable
clock.

Function: Identifies the last recorded date
and time. In this case of EMD, this area is mandatory.

Value: bits 25 to 31: Year 0 to 99 (1980 to
2079)

bits 21 to 24: Month 0 to 12

bits 16 to 24: Day 0 to 31

bits 11 to 15: Hour 0 to 23

bits 05 to 10: Minute 0 to 59

bits 00 to 04: Second 0 to 29 (two
second interval)

As the last slot of the reproduction
management file, the same BLKID-TL0, MCode, and
REVISION as those in the header are written.

While data is being recorded to a memory
card, it may be mistakenly or accidentally detached or
the power of the recorder/player may be turned off.
When such an improper operation is performed, a defect
should be detected. As described above, the REVISION
area is placed at the beginning and end of each block.
Whenever data is rewritten, the value of the REVISION
area is incremented. If a defect termination takes
place in the middle of a block, the value of the
REVISION area at the beginning of the block does not
match the value of the REVISION area at the end of the
block. Thus, such a defect termination can be
detected. Since there are two REVISION areas, the
abnormal termination can be detected with a high
probability. When an abnormal termination is detected,
an alarm such as an error message is generated.

In addition, since the fixed value BLKID-TL0
is written at the beginning of one block (16 KB), when
the FAT is destroyed, the fixed value is used as a
reference for recovering data. In other words, with
reference to the fixed value, the type of the file can
be determined. Since the fixed value BLKID-TL0 is

redundantly written at the header and the end portion of each block, the reliability can be secured.

Alternatively, the same reproduction management file can be redundantly recorded.

5 The data amount of an ATRAC3 data file is much larger than that of the track information management file. In addition, as will be described later, a block number BLOCK SERIAL is added to ATRAC3 data file. However, since a plurality of ATRAC3 files are recorded to the memory card, to prevent them from become redundant, both CONNUM0 and BLOCK SERIAL are used. Otherwise, when the FAT is destroyed, it will be difficult to recover the file. In other words, one ATRAC3 data file may be composed of a plurality of blocks that are dispersed. To identify blocks of the same file, CONNUM0 is used. In addition, to identify the order of blocks in the ATRAC3 data file, BLOCK SERIAL is used.

10 Likewise, the maker code (Mcode) is redundantly recorded at the beginning and the end of each block so as to identify the maker and the model in such a case that a file has been improperly recorded in the state that the FAT has not been destroyed.

15 Fig. 12C is a schematic diagram showing the structure of the additional information data. The additional information is composed of the following header and variable length data. The header has the

following areas.

= INF

Meaning: FIELD ID

Function: Represents the beginning of the
5 additional information (fixed value).

Value: 0x69

= ID

Meaning: Additional information key code

Function: Represents the category of the
10 additional information.

Value: 0 to 0xFF

= SIZE

Meaning: Size of individual additional
information

Function: Represents the size of each type
15 of additional information. Although the data size is
not limited, it should be at least 16 bytes and a
multiple of 4 bytes. The rest of the data should be
filled with null (0x00).

20 Value: 16 to 14784 (0x39C0)

= MCode

Meaning: MAKER CODE

Function: Identifies the maker and model of
the recorder/player.

25 Value: High-order 10 bits (maker code), low-
order 10 bits (machine code).

= C+L

Meaning: Attribute of characters in data area starting from byte 12.

Function: Represents the character code and the language code as one byte code.

5 Value: Same as SNC+L
= DATA

Meaning: Individual additional information

Function: Represents each type of additional information with variable length data. Real data always starts from byte 12. The length (size) of the real data should be at least 4 bytes and a multiple of 4 bytes. The rest of the data area should be filled with null (0x00).

Value: Individually defined corresponding to the contents of each type of additional information.

Fig. 13 is a table that correlates key code values (0 to 63 of additional information and types thereof. Key code values (0 to 31) are assigned to music character information. Key code values (32 to 63) are assigned to URLs (Uniform Resource Locator) (web information). The music character information and URL information contain character information of the album title, the artist name, the CM, and so forth as additional information.

25 Fig. 14 is a table that correlates key code values (64 to 127) of additional information and types thereof. Key code values (64 to 95) are assigned to

paths/others. Key code values (96 to 127) are assigned to control/numeric data. For example, ID = 98 represents TOC-ID as additional information. TOC-ID represents the first music program number, the last music program number, the current program number, the total performance duration, and the current music program duration corresponding to the TOC information of a CD (Compact Disc).

Fig. 15 is a table that correlates key code values (128 to 159) of additional information and types thereof. Key code values (128 to 159) are assigned to synchronous reproduction information. In Fig. 15, EMD stands for electronic music distribution.

Next, with reference to Figs. 16A to 16E, real examples of additional information will be described. As with Fig. 12C, Fig. 16A shows the data structure of the additional information. In Fig. 16B, key code ID = 3 (artist name as additional information). SIZE = 0x1C (28 bytes) representing that the data length of additional information including the header is 28 bytes; C+L representing that character code C = 0x01 (ASCII) and language code L = 0x09 (English). Variable length data after byte 12 represents one byte data "SIMON & GRAFUNKEL" as artist name. Since the data length of the additional information should be a multiple of 4 bytes, the rest is filled with (0x00).

In Fig. 16C, key code ID = 97 representing
that ISRC (International Standard Recording Code:
Copyright code) as additional information. SIZE = 0x14
(20 bytes) representing that the data length of the
5 additional information is 20 bytes. C = 0x00 and L =
0x00 representing that characters and language have not
been set. Thus, the data is binary code. The variable
length data is eight-byte ISRC code representing
copyright information (nation, copyright owner,
recorded year, and serial number).

In Fig. 16D, key code ID = is 97 representing
recorded date and time as additional information. SIZE
= 0 x 10 (16 bytes) representing that the data length
of the additional information is 16 bytes. C = 0x00
and L = representing that characters and language have
not been set. The variable length data is four-byte
code (32 bit) representing the recorded date and time
(year, month, day, hour, minute, second).

In Fig. 16E, key code ID = 107 representing a
reproduction log as additional information. SIZE =
20 0x10 (16 bytes) representing that the data length of
the additional information is 16 bytes. C = 0x00 and L
= 0x00 representing that characters and language have
not been set. The variable length data is a four-byte
code representing a reproduction log (year, month, day,
25 hour, minute, second). When the recorder/player has a
reproduction log function, it records data of 16 bytes

whenever it reproduces music data.

Fig. 17 is a schematic diagram showing a data arrangement of ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnn in the case that 1 SU is N bytes (for example, N = 384 bytes).

Fig. 17 shows an attribute header (1 block) of a data file and a music data file (1 block). Fig. 17 shows the first byte (0x0000 to 0x7FF0) of each slot of the two blocks ($16 \times 2 = 32$ kbytes). As shown in Fig. 18, the first 32 bytes of the attribute header are used as a header; 256 bytes are used as a music program area NM1 (256 bytes); and 512 bytes are used as a music program title area NM2 (512 bytes). The header of the attribute header contains the following areas.

= BLKID-HD0 (4 bytes)

Meaning: BLOCKID FIELD ID

Function: Identifies the top of an ATRA3 data file.

Value: Fixed value = "HD = 0" (For example,
0x48442D30)

= MCode (2 bytes)

Meaning: MAKER CODE

Function: Identifies the maker and model of the recorder/player

Value: High-order 10 bits (maker code); low-order 6 bits (machine code)

= BLOCK SERIAL (4 bytes)

Meaning: Track serial number

Function: Starts from 0 and increments by
1. Even if a music program is edited, this value does
not vary.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFF.

5 = N1C+L (2 bytes)

Meaning: Represents the attribute of data
(NM1) of a track (music program title).

Function: Represent the character code and
language code of NM1 as one byte code.

Value: Same as SN1C+L

= N2C+L (2 bytes)

Meaning: Represents the attribute of data
(NM2) of a track (music program title).

Function: Represent the character code and
language code of NM1 as one byte code.

Value: Same as SN1C+L

= INF_SIZE (2 bytes)

Meaning: Total size of additional
information of current track.

20 Function: Represents the data size as a
multiple of 16 bytes. When data is not recorded, this
area should be all 0.

Value: 0x0000 to 0x3C6 (966)

= T-PRT (2 bytes)

25 Meaning: Number of total bytes

Function: Represents the number of parts
that composes the current track. Normally, the value

of T-PRT is 1.

Value: 1 to 285 (645 dec).

= T-SU (4 bytes)

Meaning: Number of total SU.

5 Function: Represents the total number of SU
in one track that is equivalent to the program
performance duration.

Value: 0x01 to 0x001FFFF

= INX (2 bytes) (Option)

Meaning: Relative position of INDEX

Function: Used as a pointer that represents
the top of a representative portion of a music program.
The value of INX is designated with a value of which
the number of SU is divided by 4 as the current
position of the program. This value of INX is
equivalent to 4 times larger than the number of SU
(around 93 msec).

Value: 0 to 0xFFFF (max, around 6084 sec)

= XT (2 bytes) (Option)

20 Meaning: Reproduction duration of INDEX

Function: Designates the reproduction
duration designated by INX-nnn with a value of which
the number of SU is divided by 4. The value of INDEX
is equivalent to four times larger than the normal SU
(around 93 msec).

25 Value: 0x0000 (no setting); 0x01 to 0xFFFF
(up to 6084 sec); 0xFFFF (up to end of music program)

Next, the music program title areas NM1 and NM2 will be described.

= NM1

Means: Character string of music program

5 title

Function: Represents a music program title as one byte code (up to 256 characters) (variable length). The title area should be completed with an end code (0x00). The size should be calculated from the end code. When data is not recorded, null (0x00) should be recorded from the beginning (0x0020) of the area for at least one byte.

Value: Various character codes

= NM2

Means: Character string of music program

title

Function: Represents a music program title as two byte code (up to 512 characters) (variable length). The title area should be completed with an end code (0x00). The size should be calculated from the end code. When data is not recorded, null (0x100) should be recorded from the beginning (0x0120) of the area for at least two bytes.

Value: Various character codes

25 Data of 80 bytes starting from the fixed position (0x320) of the attribute header is referred to as track information area TRKINF. This area is mainly

used to totally manage the security information and copy control information. Fig. 19 shows a part of TRKINF. The area TRKINF contains the following areas.

= CONTENTS KEY (8 bytes)

5 Meaning: Value for each music program. The value of CONTENTS KEY is protected in the security block of the memory card and then stored.

Function: Used as a key for reproducing a music program. It is used to calculate the value of MAC.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

= MAC (8 bytes)

Meaning: Forged copyright information check value Function: Represents the value generated with a plurality of values of TRKINF including contents cumulation numbers and a secret sequence number.

The secret sequence number is a sequence number recorded in the secret area of the memory card. A non-copyright protection type recorder cannot read data from the secret area of the memory card. On the other hand, a copyright protection type recorder and a computer that operates with a program that can read data from a memory card can access the secret area.

= A (1 byte)

25 Meaning: Attribute of part.
Function: Represents the information of such as compression mode of a part.

Value: The details will be described in the following (see Figs. 19 and 20).

Next, the value of the area A will be described. In the following description, monaural mode (N = 0 or 1) is defined as a special joint mode of which bit 7 = 1, sub signal = 0, main signal = (L+R). A non-copyright protection type player may ignore information of bits 2 and 1.

Bit 0 of the area A represents information of emphasis on/off state. Bit 1 of the area A represents information of reproduction skip or normal reproduction. Bit 2 of the area A represents information of data type such as audio data, FAX data, or the like. Bit 3 of the area A is undefined. By a combination of bits 4, 5, and 6, mode information of ATRAC3 is defined as shown in Fig. 20. In other words, N is a mode value of 3 bits. For five types of modes that are monaural (N = 0 or 1), LP (N = 2), SP (N = 4), EX (N = 5), and HQ (N = 7), record duration (64 MB memory card only), data transmission rate, and the number of SU per block are listed. The number of bytes of 1 SU depends on each mode. The number of bytes of 1 SU in the monaural mode is 136 bytes. The number of bytes of 1 SU in the LP mode is 192 bytes. The number of bytes of 1 SU in the SP mode is 304 bytes. The number of bytes of 1 SU in the EX mode is 384 bytes. The number of bytes of 1 SU in the HQ mode is 512

bytes. Bit 7 of the area A represents ATRAC3 modes (0: Dual, 1: JOint).

For example, an example of which a 64 MB memory card is used in the SP mode will be described.

A 64-MB memory card has 3968 blocks. In the SP mode, since 1 SU is 304 bytes, one block has 53 SU. 1 SU is equivalent to $(1024/44100)$ seconds. Thus, one block is $(1024/44100) \times 53 \times (3968 - 10) = 4863$ seconds = 81 minutes. The transmission rate is $(44100/1024) \times 304 \times 8 = 104737$ bps.

= LT (one byte)

Meaning: Reproduction restriction flag (bits 7 and 6) and security partition (bits 5 to 0).

Function: Represents a restriction of the current track.

Value: bit 7: 0 = no restriction, 1 = restriction

bit 6: 0 = not expired, 1 = expired

bits 5 to 0: security partition

20 (reproduction

prohibited other than 0)

= FNo (2 bytes)

Meaning: File number.

Function: Represents the initially recorded track number that designates the position of the MAC calculation value recorded in the secret area of the memory card.

Value: 1 to 0x190 (400)
= MG(D) SERIAL-nnn (16 bytes)

Meaning: Represents the serial number of the security block (security IC 20) of the recorder/player.

5 Function: Unique value for each recorder/player

Value: 0 to
0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
= CONNUM (4 bytes)

Meaning: Contents cumulation number

Function: Represents a unique value cumulated for each music program. The value is managed by the security block of the recorder/player. The upper limit of the value is 2^{32} that is 4,200,000,000.

10 Used to identify a recorded program.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFF
= YMDhms-S (4 bytes) (Option)

Meaning: Reproduction start date and time of track with reproduction restriction

Function: Represents the date and time at which data reproduction is permitted with EMD.

20 Value: Same as the notation of date and time of other areas
= YMDhms-E (4 bytes) (Option)

Meaning: Reproduction end date and time of track with reproduction restriction

Function: Represents the date and time at

which data reproduction is expired with EMD.

Value: Same as the notation of date and time
of other areas

= MT (1 byte) (Option)

5 Meaning: Maximum value of number of permitted
reproduction times

Function: Represents the maximum number of
reproduction times designated by EMD.

Value: 1 to 0xFF. When not used, the value
of the area MT is 00.

= CT (1 byte) (Option)

Meaning: Number of reproduction times

Function: Represents the number of
reproduction times in the number of permitted
reproduction times. Whenever data is reproduced, the
value of the area CT is decremented.

Value: 0x00 to 0xFF. When not used, the
value of the area CT is 0x00. When bit 7 of the area
LT is 1 and the value of the area CT is 00, data is
prohibited from being reproduced.

= CC (1 byte)

Meaning: COPY CONTROL

Function: Controls the copy operation.

Value: bits 6 and 7 represent copy control
information. bits 4 and 5 represent copy control
information of a high speed digital copy operation.
bits 2 and 3 represent a security block authentication

level. bits 0 and 1 are undefined.

Example of CC:

(bits 7 and 6)

11: Unlimited copy operation permitted

5 01: copy prohibited

00: one time copy operation permitted

(bits 3 and 2)

00: analog/digital input recording

MG authentication level is 0.

10 When digital record operation using data from
a CD is performed, (bits 7 and 6): 00 and (bits 3 and
2): 00.

= CN (1 byte) (Option)

15 Meaning: Number of permitted copy times in
high speed serial copy management system

Function: Extends the copy permission with
the number of copy times, not limited to one time copy
permission and copy free permission. Valid only in
first copy generation. The value of the area CN is
decremented whenever the copy operation is performed.

20 Value"

00: Copy prohibited

01 to 0xFE: Number of times

0xFF: Unlimited copy times

25 The track information area TRKINF is followed
by a 24-byte part management information area (PRTINF)
starting from 0x0370. When one track is composed of a

plurality of parts, the values of areas PRTINF of the individual parts are successively arranged on the time axis. Fig. 22 shows a part of the area PRTINF. Next, areas in the area PRTINF will be described in the order of the arrangement.

5

= PRTSIZE (4 bytes)

Meaning: Part size

Function: Represents the size of a part.

Cluster: 2 bytes (highest position), start SU: 1 byte
10 (upper), end SU: 1 byte (lowest position).

Value: cluster: 1 to 0x1F40 (8000)

start SU: 0 to 0xA0 (160)

end SU: 0 to 0xA0 (16) (Note that SU
starts from 0.)

15 = PRTKEY (8 bytes)

Meaning: Part encrypting value

Function: Encrypts a part. Initial value =
0. Note that edit rules should be applied.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

20

= CONNUM0 (4 bytes)

Meaning: Initially generated contents
cumulation number key

Function: Uniquely designates an ID of
contents.

25

Value: Same value as the value of the
contents cumulation number initial value key

As shown in Fig. 17, the attribute header of

an ATRAC3 data file contains additional information INF. The additional information is the same as the additional information INF-S (see Figs. 11 and 12B) of the reproduction management file except that the start position is not fixed. The last byte position (a multiple of four bytes) at the end of one or a plurality of parts is followed by data of the additional information INF.

5 = INF

10 Meaning: Additional information with respect
to track

15 Function: Represents variable length
additional information with a header. A plurality of
different types of additional information may be
arranged. Each of additional information areas has an
ID and a data size. Each additional information area
is composed of at least 16 bytes and a multiple of 4
bytes.

20 Value: Same as additional information INF-S
of reproduction management file

The above-described attribute header is
followed by data of each block of an ATRAC3 data file.
As shown in Fig. 23, a header is added for each block.
Next, data of each block will be described.

25 = BLKID-A3D (4 bytes)

Meaning: BLOCKID FILE ID

Function: Identifies the top of ATRAC3 data.

Value: Fixed value = "A3D" (for example,
0x41334420)
= MCode (2 bytes)

Meaning: MAKER CODE

Function: Identifies the maker and model of
the recorder/player

Value: High-order 10 bits (maker code); low-
order 6 bits (model code)
= CONNUMO (4 bytes)

Meaning: Cumulated number of initially
created contents

Function: Designates a unique ID for
contents. Even if the contents are edited, the value
of the area CONNUMO is not changed.

Value: Same as the contents cumulation
number initial key
= BLOCK SERIAL (4 bytes)

Meaning: Serial number assigned to each
track

Function: Starts from 0 and increments by 1.
Even if the contents are edited, the value of the area
BLOCK SERIAL is not changed.

Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFF
= BLOCK-SEED (8 bytes)

Meaning: Key for encrypting one block

Function: The beginning of the block is a
random number generated by the security block of the

recorder/player. The random number is followed by a value incremented by 1. When the value of the area BLOCK-SEED is lost, since sound is not generated for around one second equivalent to one block, the same
5 data is written to the header and the end of the block. Even if the contents are edited, the value of the area BLOCK-SEED is not changed.

Value: Initially 8-bit random number
= INITIALIZATION VECTOR (8 bytes)

Meaning: Value necessary for encrypting/decrypting ATRAC3 data

Function: Represents an initial value necessary for encrypting and decrypting ATRAC3 data for each block. A block starts from 0. The next block starts from the last encrypted 8-bit value at the last SU. When a block is divided, the last eight bytes just before the start SU is used. Even if the contents are edited, the value of the area INITIALIZATION VECTOR is not changed.

20 Value: 0 to 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
= SU-nnn

Meaning: Data of sound unit

Function: Represents data compressed from 1024 samples. The number of bytes of output data depends on the compression mode. Even if the contents are edited, the value of the area SU-nnn is not changed. For example, in the SP mode, N = 384 bytes.

Value: Data value of ATRAC3

In Fig. 17, since $N = 384$, 42 SU are written to one block. The first two slots (4 bytes) of one block are used as a header. In the last slot (two bytes), the areas BLKID-A3D, MCode, CONNUM0, and BLOCK SERIAL are redundantly written. Thus, M bytes of the remaining area of one block is $(16,384 - 384 \times 42 - 16 \times 3 = 208)$ bytes. As described above, the eight-byte area BLOCK SEED is redundantly recorded.

When the FAT area is destroyed, all blocks of the flash memory are searched. It is determined whether the value of the area ID BLKID at the beginning of each block is TL0, HD0, or A3D. As shown in Figs. 24A to 24C, at step SP1, it is determined whether or not the value of the area ID BLKID at the beginning of the top block is BLKID-TL0. When the determined result at step SP1 is No, the flow advances to step SP2. At step SP2, the block number is incremented. Thereafter, at step SP3, it is determined whether or not the last block has been searched.

When the determined result at step SP3 is No, the flow returns to step SP1.

When the determined result at step SP1 is Yes, the flow advances to step SP4. At step SP4, it is determined that the searched block is the reproduction management file PBLIST. Thereafter, the flow advances to step SP5. At step SP5, the number of total tracks

T-TRK in the reproduction management file PBLIST is stored as N to the register. For example, when the memory has stored 10 ATRAC3 data files (10 music programs), 10 has been stored in T-TRK.

5 Next, with reference to the value of the number of total tracks T-TRK, TRK-001 to TRK-400 of blocks are successively referenced. In this example, since 10 music programs have been recorded, TRK-001 to TRK-010 of blocks are referenced. Since a file number FNO has been recorded in TRK-XXX (where X = 1 to 400) at step SP7, a table that correlates the track number TRK-XXX and the file number FNO is stored to the memory. Next, at step SP8, N stored in the register is decremented. A loop of steps SP6, SP7, and SP8 is repeated until N becomes 0 at step SP9.

10
15 When the determined result at step SP9 is Yes, the flow advances to step SP10. At step SP10, the pointer is reset to the top block. The searching process is repeated from the top block. Thereafter, 20 the flow advances to step SP11. At step SP11, it is determined whether or not the value of the area ID BLKID of the top block is BLKID-HD0. When the determined result at step SP11 is No, the flow advances to step SP12. At step SP12, the block number is incremented. At step SP13, it is determined whether or 25 not the last block has been searched.

When the determined result at step SP13 is

No, the flow returns to step SP11. The searching process is repeated until the determined result at step SP11 becomes Yes.

When the determined result at step SP11 is
5 Yes, the flow advances to step SP14. At step SP14, it is determined that the block is the attribute header (see Fig. 8) (0x0000 to 0x03FFF shown in Fig. 18) at the beginning of the ATRAC3 data file.

Next, at step SP15, with reference to the
10 file number FNO, the sequence number BLOCK SERIAL of the same ATRAC data file, and the contents cumulation number key CONNUM0 contained in the attribute header, they are stored to the memory. When 10 ATRAC3 data files have been recorded, since there are 10 blocks of which the value of the area ID BLKID of the top block is BLKID-TL0, the searching process is continued until 15 10 blocks are searched.

When the determined result at step SP13 is Yes, the flow advances to step SP16. At step SP16, the
20 pointer is reset to the top block. The searching process is repeated from the top block.

Thereafter, the flow advances to step SP17. At step SP17, it is determined whether or not the value of the area ID BLKID of the top block is BLKID-A3D.

When the determined result at step SP17 is
25 No, the flow advances to step SP18. At step SP18, the block number is incremented. Thereafter, at step

SP18', it is determined whether or not the last block has been searched. When the determined result at step SP18' is No, the flow returns to step SP17.

When the determined result at step SP17 is Yes, the flow advances to step SP19. At step SP19, it is determined that the block contains ATRAC3 data.

Thereafter, the flow advances to step SP20. At step SP20, with reference to the serial number BLOCK SERIAL recorded in the ATRAC3 data block and the contents cumulation number key CONNUM0, they are stored to the memory.

In the same ATRAC3 data file, the common number is assigned as the contents cumulation number key CONNUM0. In other words, when one ATRAC3 data file is composed of 10 blocks, a common number is assigned to all the values of the areas CONNUM0.

In addition, when one ATRAC3 data is composed of 10 blocks, serial numbers 1 to 0 are assigned to the values of the areas BLOCK SERIALS of the 10 blocks.

Corresponding to the values of the areas CONNUM0 and BLOCK SERIAL, it is determined whether the current block composes the same contents and the reproduction order of the current block in the same contents (namely, the connection sequence).

When 10 ATRAC3 data files (namely, 10 music programs) have been recorded and each of the ATRAC3 data files is composed of 10 blocks, there are 100 data

blocks.

With reference to the values of the areas CONNUM0 and BLOCK SERIAL, the reproduction order of music programs of 100 data blocks and the connection order thereof can be obtained.

When the determined result at step SP19 is Yes, all the blocks have been searched for the reproduction management file, the ATRAC3 data file, and the attribute file. Thus, at step SP21, based on the values of the areas CONNUM0, BLOCK SERIAL, FNO, and TRK-X in the order of block numbers of the blocks stored in the memory, the file connection state is obtained.

After the connection state is obtained, the FAT may be generated in a free area of the memory.

Next, a management file according to a second embodiment of the present invention will be described. Fig. 25 shows the file structure according to the second embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 25, a music directory contains a track information management file TRKLIST.MSF (hereinafter, referred to as TRKLIST), a backup track information management file TRKLISTB.MSF (hereinafter, referred to as TRKLISTB), an additional information file INFILST.MSF (that contains an artist name, an ISRC code, a time stamp, a still picture data, and so forth (this file is referred to as INFIST)), an ATRAC3 data

file A3Dnnnn.MSF (hereinafter, referred to as A3nnnn).

The file TRKLIST contains two areas NAME1 and NAME2.

The area NAME1 is an area that contains the memory card name and the program name (for one byte code

5 corresponding to ASCII/8859-1 character code). The area NAME2 is an area that contains the memory card name and the program name (for two byte code corresponding to MS-JIS/Hankul/Chinese code).

Fig. 26 shows the relation between the track information management file TRKLIST, the areas NAME1 and NAME2, and the ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnn. The file TRKLIST is a fixed-length file of 64 kbytes (= 16 k x 4). An area of 32 kbytes of the file is used for managing tracks. The remaining area of 32 kbytes is used to contain the areas NAME1 and NAME2. Although the areas NAME1 and NAME2 for program names may be provided as a different file as the track information management file, in a system having a small storage capacity, it is convenient to totally manage the track information management file and program name files.

The track information area TRKINF-nnnn and part information area PRTINF-nnnn of the track information management file TRKLIST are used to manage the data file A3Dnnnn and the additional information INFLIST. Only the ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnn is encrypted. In Fig. 26, the data length in the horizontal direction is 16 bytes (0 to F). A

hexadecimal number in the vertical direction represents the value at the beginning of the current line.

According to the second embodiment, three files that are the track management file TRKLIST (including a program title file), the additional information management file INFLIST, and the data file A3Dnnnn are used. According to the first embodiment (see Figs. 7, 8, and 9), two files that are the reproduction management file PBLIST for managing all the memory card and the data file ATRAC3 for storing programs are used.

Next, the data structure according to the second embodiment will be described. For simplicity, in the data structure according to the second embodiment, the description of similar portions to those of the first embodiment is omitted.

Fig. 27 shows the detailed structure of the track information management file TRKLIST. In the track information management file TRKLIST, one cluster (block) is composed of 16 kbytes. The size and data of the file TRKLISTB are the same as those of the backup file TRKLISTB. The first 32 bytes of the track information management file are used as a header. As with the header of the reproduction management file PBLIST, the header of the file TRKLIST contains a BLKID-TL0/TL1 (backup file ID) area (4 bytes), an area T-TRK (2 bytes) for the number of total tracks, a maker

code area MCode (2 bytes), an area REVISION (4 bytes) for the number of TRKLIST rewrite times, and an area S-YMDhms (4 bytes) (option) for update date and time data. The meanings and functions of these data areas
5 are the same as those of the first embodiment. In addition, the file TRKLIST contains the following areas.

= YMDhms (4 bytes)

10 Represents the last update date (year, month, day) of the file TRKLIST.

= N1 (1 byte) (Option)

15 Represents the sequential number of the memory card (numerator side). When one memory card is used, the value of the area N1 is 0x01.

= N2 (1 byte) (Option)

20 Represents the sequential number of the memory card (denominator side). When one memory card is used, the value of the area N2 is 0x01.

= MSID (2 bytes) (Option)

25 Represents the ID of a memory card. When a plurality of memory cards is used, the value of the area MSID of each memory card is the same (T.B.D.). (T.B.D. (to be defined) represents that this value may be defined in future).

= S-TRK (2 bytes).

Represents a special track (T.B.D.).

Normally, the value of the area S-TRK is 0x0000.

= PASS (2 bytes) (Option)
Represents a password (T.B.D.).
= APP (2 bytes) (Option)
Represents the definition of a reproduction
5 application (T.B.D.) (normally, the value of the area
APP is 0x0000).

= INF-S (2 bytes) (Option)
Represents the additional information pointer
of the entire memory card. When there is no additional
10 information, the value of the area INF-S is 0x00.

The last 16 bytes of the file TRKLIST are
used for an area BLKID-TL0, an area MCode, and an area
REVISION that are the same as those of the header. The
backup file TRKLISTB contains the above-described
header. In this case, the header contains an area
BLKID-TL1, an area MCode, and an area REVISION.

The header is followed by a track information
area TRKINF for information with respect to each track
and a part information area PRTINF for information with
respect to each part of tracks (music programs). Fig.
20 27 shows the areas preceded by the area TRKLIST. The
lower portion of the area TRKLISTB shows the detailed
structure of these areas. In Fig. 27, a hatched area
represents an unused area.

25 The track information area TRKINF-nnn and the
part information area PRTINF-nnn contain areas of an
ATRAC3 data file. In other words, the track

information area TRKINF-nnn and the part information area PRTINF-nnn each contain a reproduction restriction flag area LT (1 byte), a contents key area CONTENTS KEY (8 bytes), a recorder/player security block serial number area MG(D) SERIAL (16 bytes), an area XT (2 bytes) (option) for representing a feature portion of a music program, an area INX (2 bytes) (option), an area YMDhms-S (4 bytes) (option), an area YMDhms-E (4 bytes) (option), an area MT (1 byte) (option), an area CT (1 byte) (option), an area CC (1 byte) (option), an area CN (1 byte) (option) (these areas YMDhms-S, YMDhms-E, MT, CT, CC, and CN are used for reproduction restriction information and copy control information), an area A (1 byte) for part attribute, a part size area PRTSIZE (4 bytes), a part key area PRTKEY (8 bytes), and a contents cumulation number area CONNUM (4 bytes). The meanings, functions, and values of these areas are the same as those of the first embodiment. In addition, the track information area TRKINF-nnn and the part information area PRTINF-nnn each contain the following areas.

= T0 (1 byte)

Fixed value (T0 = 0x74)

= INF-nnn (Option) (2 bytes)

Represents the additional information pointer (0 to 409) of each track. 00: music program without additional information.

= FNM-nnn (4 bytes)

Represents the file number (0x0000 to 0xFFFF) of an ATRK3 data file.

The number nnnn (in ASCII) of the ATRAC3 data

5 file name (A3Dnnnn) is converted into 0xnnnnn.

= APP_CTL (4 bytes) (Option)

Represents an application parameter (T.B.D.)

(Normally, the value of the area APP_CTL is 0x0000).

= P-nnn (2 bytes)

Represents the number of parts (1 to 2039)

that compose a music program. This area corresponds to the above-described area T-PART.

= PR (1 byte)

Fixed value (PR = 0 x 50).

Next, the areas NAME1 (for one byte code) and NAME2 (for two byte code) for managing names will be described. Fig. 28 shows the detailed structure of the area NAME1 (for one byte code area). Each of the areas NAME1 and NAME2 (that will be described later) is segmented with eight bytes. Thus, their one slot is composed of eight bytes. At 0x8000 that is the beginning of each of these areas, a header is placed. The header is followed by a pointer and a name. The last slot of the area NAME1 contains the same areas as the header.

= BLKID-NM1 (4 bytes)

Represents the contents of a block (fixed)

value) (NM1 = 0x4E4D2D31).
= PNM1-nnn (4 bytes) (Option)
Represents the pointer to the area NM1 (for
one byte code).

5 = PNM1-S
Represents the pointer to a name representing
a memory card.
nnn (= 1 to 408) represents the pointer to a
music program title.

10 The pointer represents the start position (2
bytes) of the block, the character code type (2 bits),
and the data size (14 bits).

= NM1-nnn (Option)
Represents the memory card name and music
program title for one byte code (variable length). An
end code (0x00) is written at the end of the area.

15 Fig. 29 shows the detailed data structure of
the area NAME2 (for two byte code). At 0x8000 that is
the beginning of the area, a header is placed. The
header is followed by a pointer and a name. The last
slot of the area NAME2 contains the same areas as the
header.

20 = BLKID-NM2 (4 bytes)
Represents the contents of a block (fixed
value) (NM2 = 0x4E4D2D32).
= PNM2-nnn (4 bytes) (Option)
Represents the pointer to the area NM2 (for

two byte code).

PNM2-S represents the pointer to the name representing the memory card. nnn (= 1 to 408) represents the pointer to a music program title.

5 The pointer represents the start position (2 bytes) of the block, the character code type (2 bits), and the data size (14 bits).

= NM2-nnn (Option)

10 Represents the memory card name and music program title for two byte code (variable). An end code (0x0000) is written at the end of the area.

15 Fig. 30 shows the data arrangement (for one block) of the ATRAC3 data file A3Dnnnn in the case that 1 SU is composed of N bytes. In this file, one slot is composed of eight bytes. Fig. 30 shows the values of the top portion (0x0000 to 0x3FF8) of each slot. The first four slots of the file are used for a header. As with the data block preceded by the attribute header of the data file (see Fig. 17) of the first example, a header is placed. The header contains an area BLKID-A3D (4 bytes), a maker code area MCode (2 bytes), an area BLOCK SEED (8 bytes) necessary for encrypting process, an area CONNUM0 (4 bytes) for the initial contents cumulation number, a serial number area BLOCK SERIAL (4 bytes) for each track, and an area INITIALIZATION VECTOR (8 bytes) necessary for encrypting/decrypting process. The second last slot of

the block redundantly contains an area BLOCK SEED. The last slot contains areas BLKID-A3D and MCode. As with the first embodiment, the header is followed by the sound unit data SU-nnnn.

5 Fig. 31 shows the detailed data structure of the additional information management file INFLIST that contains additional information. In the second embodiment, at the beginning (0x0000) of the file INFLIST, the following header is placed. The header is followed by the following pointer and areas.

= BLKID-INF (4 bytes)

10 Represents the contents of the block (fixed value) (INF = 0x494E464F).

= T-DAT (2 blocks)

15 Represents the number of total data areas (0 to 409).

= MCode (2 bytes)

Records the maker code of the recorder/player

= YMDhms (4 bytes)

20 Represents the record updated date and time.

= INF-nnnn (4 bytes)

25 Represents the pointer to the area DATA of the additional information (variable length, as 2 bytes (slot) at a time). The start position is represented with the high order 16 bits (0000 to FFFF).

= DataSlot-0000 (0x0800)

Represents the offset value from the beginning (as a slot at a time).

The data size is represented with low order 16 bits (0001 to 7FFF). A disable flag is set at the most significant bit. MSB = 0 (Enable), MSB = 1 (Disable)

The data size represents the total data amount of the music program.

(The data starts from the beginning of each slot. (The non-data area of the slot is filled with 00.)

The first INF represents a pointer to additional information of the entire album (normally, INF-409).

Fig. 32 shows the structure of additional information. An 8-byte header is placed at the beginning of one additional information data area. The structure of the additional information is the same as that of the first embodiment (see Fig. 12C). In other words, the additional information contains an area IN (2 bytes) as an ID, an area key code ID (1 byte), an area SIZE (2 bytes) that represents the size of each additional information area, and a maker code area MCode (2 bytes). In addition, the additional information contains an area SID (1 byte) as a sub ID.

According to the second embodiment of the present invention, in addition to the file system

defined as a format of the memory card, the track information management file TRKLIST or music data is used. Thus, even if the FAT is destroyed, the file can be recovered. Fig. 33 shows a flow of a file recovering process. To recover the file, a computer that operates with a file recovery program and that can access the memory card and a storing device (hard disk, RAM, or the like) connected to the computer are used.

5 The computer has a function equivalent to the DSP30. Next, a file recovering process using the track management file TRKLIST will be described.

All blocks of the flash memory whose FAT has been destroyed are searched for TL-0 as the value (BLKID) at the top position of each block. In addition, all the blocks are searched for NM-1 as the value (BLKID) at the top position of each block. Thereafter, all the blocks are searched for NM-2 as the value (BLKID) at the top position of each block. All the contents of the four blocks (track information management file) are stored to for example a hard disk by the recovery computer.

20 The number of total tracks is obtained from data after the fourth byte of the track information management file. The 20-th byte of the track information area TRKINF-001, the value of the area CONNUM-001 of the first music program, and the value of the next area P-001 are obtained. The number of parts

is obtained with the value of the area P-001. The values of the areas PRTSIZE of all parts of the track 1 of the area PRTINF is obtained. The number of total blocks (clusters) n is calculated and obtained.

5 After the track information management file is obtained, the flow advances to step 102. At step 102, a voice data file (ATRAC3 data file) is searched. All blocks of other than the management file is searched from the flash memory. Blocks whose top value (BLKID) is A3D are collected.

10 A block of which the value of the area CONNUM0 at the 16-th byte of A3Dnnnn is the same as that of the area CONNUM-001 of the first music program of the track information management file and of which the value of the area BLOCK SERIAL that starts from 20-th byte is 0 is searched. After the first block is obtained, a block (cluster) with the same value of the area CONNUM value as the first block and of which the value of BLOCK SERIAL is incremented by 1 ($1 = 0 + 1$) is searched. After the second block is obtained, a block with the same value of the area CONNUM0 as the second block and of which the value of the area BLOCK SERIAL is incremented by 1 ($2 = 1 + 1$) is searched.

15 20 25 By repeating the process, the ATRC3 data file is searched until n blocks (clusters) of the track 1 are obtained. When all the blocks (clusters) are obtained, they are successively stored to the hard

disk.

The same process for the track 1 is performed for the track 2. In other words, a block of which the value of the area CONNUM0 is the same as that of the area CONNUM-002 of the first music program of the track information management file and of which the value of the area BLOCK SERIAL that starts at the 20-th byte is searched. Thereafter, in the same manner as the track 1, the ATRAC3 data file is searched until the last block (cluster) n' is detected. After all blocks (clusters) are obtained, they are successively stored to the hard disk.

By repeating the above-described process for all tracks (the number of tracks: m), all the ATRAC3 data is stored to the hard disk controlled by the recovering computer.

At step 103, the memory card whose the FAT has been destroyed is re-initialized and then the FAT is reconstructed. A predetermined directory is formed in the memory card. Thereafter, the track information management file and the ATRAC3 data file for m tracks are copied from the hard disk to the memory card. Thus, the recovery process is finished.

In the management file and data file, important parameters (in particular, codes in headers) may be recorded triply rather than doubly. When data is redundantly recorded, the same data may be recorded

at any positions as long as they are apart from each other for one page or more.

Next, with reference to Fig. 34, the relation between data bytes and transmission rates according to the present invention will be described. As is clear from Fig. 20, the compression rate expected for conventional memory cards is around 1/8 to 1/43. In other words, the transmission rate of 705 kbps of one channel of a CD is compressed to 88 kbps to 16 kbps. In the case of 1024 samples/channel used for ATRAC3, the SU data amount (hereinafter referred to as SU value) as the data unit of the compressing process is in the range from 256 bytes to 48 bytes. The duration of 1024 bytes is equivalent to around 23 msec. This duration is the minimum edit unit. In the conventional method of which audio data is not encrypted, any SU value can be selected in such a range.

A proper SU value is selected in consideration of a data unit (eight bytes) suitable for an encrypting process corresponding to DES, 16 bytes suitable for both stereo mode and monaural mode, and free of fractions in the encrypting process so as to improve the encrypting process. In addition, it is preferable to record audio data of 74 minutes or longer in consideration of the record time of a CD. Alternatively, it is preferable to record video data of a multiple of 60 minutes for a VCR and a broadcast

program. Thus, in consideration of record times of 74 minutes and 60 minutes, a proper SU value is selected.

In the case of two channels (stereo mode), as proper SU values, 512 bytes, 400 bytes, 384 bytes, 320 bytes, 272 bytes, 256 bytes, 192 bytes, and 160 bytes can be selected from the table shown in Fig. 34.

In Fig. 34, Example 71 represents the case that the transmission rate of each channel is 88.2 kbps. In this case, the number of bytes of each channel is 256 bytes. Thus, the number of bytes of two channels is 512 bytes. The compression rate is represented by (number of bytes per SU / number of samples x number of samples per sample) (that is, $B / (1024 \times 2)$). The number of bytes per SU is a multiple of 16. The transmission rate in the case of two channels is 176.4 kbps. The number of SU inserted per block (16 kbytes) is 31.

The record time of stereo audio data recorded with a memory card of 64 Mbytes is 2853.361 seconds (47.556 minutes). Thus, in consideration of an allowance, stereo audio data of 47 minutes can be recorded, whereas monaural audio data of 95 minutes can be recorded. The fraction of each block of the memory card becomes 512 bytes. Since one slot is composed of eight bytes, the number of remaining slots becomes 64 ($512 / 8 = 64$). As shown in Fig. 30, as the remaining slots, at least five slots are required. Thus, in Fig.

34, the data byte and transmission rate listed just below Example 71 cannot be used because the number of remaining slots is 2.

In Example 72, the transmission rate of one channel is 66.2 kbps. The number of bytes of one channel is 192 bytes. The number of bytes of two channels is 384 bytes. The transmission rate of two channels is 132.3 kbps. The number of SU is 42. The recordable time of stereo audio data is 3865.844 seconds (64.431 minutes). In consideration of an allowance, stereo audio data of 64 minutes can be recorded, whereas monaural audio data of 128 minutes can be recorded. The number of remaining bytes of each block is 256 bytes. The number of remaining slots of each block is 32 slots.

In Example 73, the transmission rate of one channel is 52.4 kbps. The number of bytes of one channel is 152 bytes. The number of bytes of two channels is 304 bytes. The transmission rate of two channels is 104.7 kbps. The number of SU is 53. The recordable time of stereo audio data is 4878.327 seconds (81.305 minutes). In consideration of an allowance, stereo audio data of 81 minutes can be recorded, whereas monaural audio data of 162 minutes can be recorded. The number of remaining bytes of each block is 272 bytes. The number of remaining slots of each block is 34 slots.

5

In Example 74, the transmission rate of one channel is 33.1 kbps. The number of bytes of one channel is 96 bytes. The number of bytes of two channels is 192 bytes. The transmission rate of two channels is 66.2 kbps. The number of SU is 85. The recordable time of stereo audio data is 7823.732 seconds (130.396 minutes). Thus, in consideration of allowance, stereo audio data of 130 minutes can be recorded, whereas monaural audio data of 260 minutes can be recorded. The number of remaining bytes of each block is 64 bytes. The number of remaining slots of each block is 8 slots.

10 In comparison with the tables shown in Figs. 34 and 20, Examples 71, 72, 73, and 74 correspond to HQ mode, EX mode, SP mode, and LP mode, respectively.

15

20

The recording apparatus according to the present invention has an operating portion with which compression rates corresponding to the HQ mode, the EX mode, the SP mode, the LP mode, and so forth can be selected. Corresponding to the operation of the operating portion, the recording apparatus selects a compression rate and records data with the selected compression rate.

25

In the recording apparatus according to the present invention, the table shown in Fig. 34 is stored in an ROM memory. With reference to the ROM memory, the number of sound units corresponding to the

compression rate is decided. Digital audio data that has been compressed and encoded corresponding to the number of sound units is block segmented and recorded to a flash memory.

5 Next, with reference to Fig. 1, an example of a method for compressing data corresponding to a selected SU value will be described. In the mode selected with an external operating portion, an SU value corresponding to the mode is selected. The mode signal is supplied to the DSP 30 through the buses 33 and 32. The DSP 30 supplies the selected SU value to the encoder/decoder block 12. As described above, the encoder/decoder block 12 performs a highly efficient encoding process for a digital audio signal written to the memory card 40. In addition, the encoder/decoder 12 decodes data read from the memory card 40.

10 When audio data of the flash memory is edited, data is recorded/reproduced in the unit of a page. Thus, it is convenient to select the number of bytes per SU as 512 bytes, 256 bytes, or 128 bytes. 15 Since the physical characteristic of SU matches that of the flash memory, data can be edited for each page without a loss.

20 An example of which the physical characteristic of the flash memory matches that of SU is Example 71 of which the number of bytes of two channels is 71. Using Example 71, an SU of which 2048

samples are compressed to 512 bytes at a compression rate of (1/8) is generated. In this case, the recordable time of one SU becomes:

$$2048 / 44100 = 46.44 \text{ msec}$$

5 Although the edit (erase) unit becomes long, data can be effectively encrypted.

According to the present invention, the data amount of SU in consideration of no-frictions of encrypted data and the edit (erase) unit of the flash memory. Moreover, in consideration of the recordable time of audio data to a memory card, the compression rate is selected. Thus, data can be effectively encrypted.

Although the present invention has been shown and described with respect to a best mode embodiment thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and various other changes, omissions, and additions in the form and detail thereof may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A non-volatile recording medium for recording a digital audio signal that has been compressed at a compression rate selectable in a predetermined range and block-segmented in a predetermined data length,

5 wherein the predetermined data length of which the digital audio data is block-segmented is decided in consideration of the maximum recordable time and the data length of which the digital audio signal is encrypted.

10 2. The non-volatile record medium as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the recordable capacity of the non-volatile record medium is 64 Mbytes.

15 3. The non-volatile record medium as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the predetermined range of the compression ratio is from 1/8 to 1/43.

4. The non-volatile record medium as set forth
20 in claim 1,

wherein the data length of which the digital audio data is encoded is a multiple of 8 or 16.

5. The non-volatile record medium as set forth
25 in claim 1,

wherein the maximum recordable time is a time period of which a data file of around 60 minutes or around 74 minutes is recorded.

6. The non-volatile record medium as set forth
in claim 1,

wherein the non-volatile record medium is a
flash memory.

5 7. The non-volatile record medium as set forth
in claim 6,

wherein the data length of which the digital
audio signal is block-segmented is selected in
consideration of the record unit of the flash memory.

10 8. A recording method for recording a digital
audio signal that has been compressed at a compression
rate selectable in a predetermined range and block-
segmented in a predetermined data length to a non-
volatile record medium, comprising the steps of:

15 deciding the predetermined data length of
which the digital audio signal is block-segmented
corresponding to the maximum recordable time and the
data length of which the digital audio signal is
encrypted;

20 block-segmenting the encrypted digital audio
signal corresponding to the decided predetermined data
length; and

recording the block-segmented digital audio
signal to the non-volatile record medium.

25 9. The recording method as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the recordable capacity of the non-
volatile record medium is 64 Mbytes.

10. The recording method as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the predetermined range of the
compression ratio is from 1/8 to 1/43.
11. The recording method as set forth in claim 8,
5 wherein the data length of which the digital
audio data is encoded is a multiple of 8 or 16.
12. The recording method as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the maximum recordable time is a time
period of which a data file of around 60 minutes or
around 74 minutes is recorded.
13. The recording method as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the non-volatile record medium is a
flash memory.
14. The recording method as set forth in claim
13,
15. wherein the data length of which the digital
audio signal is block-segmented is selected in
consideration of the record unit of the flash memory.
15. A recording apparatus for recording a digital
20 audio signal that has been compressed at a compression
rate selectable in a predetermined range and block-
segmented in a predetermined data length to a non-
volatile record medium, comprising:
memory means having a table for deciding the
predetermined data length of which the digital audio
signal is block-segmented corresponding to the maximum
recordable time and the data length of which the

compressed digital audio signal is encrypted;

selecting means for selecting a predetermined compression rate in the predetermined range;

5 deciding means for deciding the predetermined data length of which the encrypted digital audio signal is block-segmented with reference to the table of said memory means corresponding to the predetermined compression rate selected by said selecting means;

block-segmenting means for block-segmenting the encrypted digital audio signal corresponding to the predetermined data length decided by said deciding means; and

10 recording means for recording the digital audio signal block segmented by said block segmenting means to the non-volatile record medium.

15 16. The recording apparatus as set forth in claim
15,

wherein the recordable capacity of the non-volatile record medium is 64 Mbytes.

20 17. The recording apparatus as set forth in claim
15,

wherein the predetermined range of the compression ratio is from 1/8 to 1/43.

18. The recording apparatus as set forth in claim
25 15,

wherein the data length of which the digital audio data is encoded is a multiple of 8 or 16.

19. The recording apparatus as set forth in claim
15,

wherein the maximum recordable time is a time
period of which a data file of around 60 minutes or
around 74 minutes is recorded.

5 20. The recording apparatus as set forth in claim
15,

wherein the non-volatile record medium is a
flash memory.

10 21. The recording apparatus as set forth in claim
20,

wherein the data length of which the digital
audio signal is block-segmented is selected in
consideration of the record unit of the flash memory.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A non-volatile recording medium for recording
a digital audio signal that has been compressed at a
compression rate selectable in a predetermined range
and block-segmented in a predetermined data length is
disclosed, wherein the predetermined data length of
which the digital audio data is block-segmented is
decided in consideration of the maximum recordable time
and the data length of which the digital audio signal
is encrypted.

10

Fig. 1

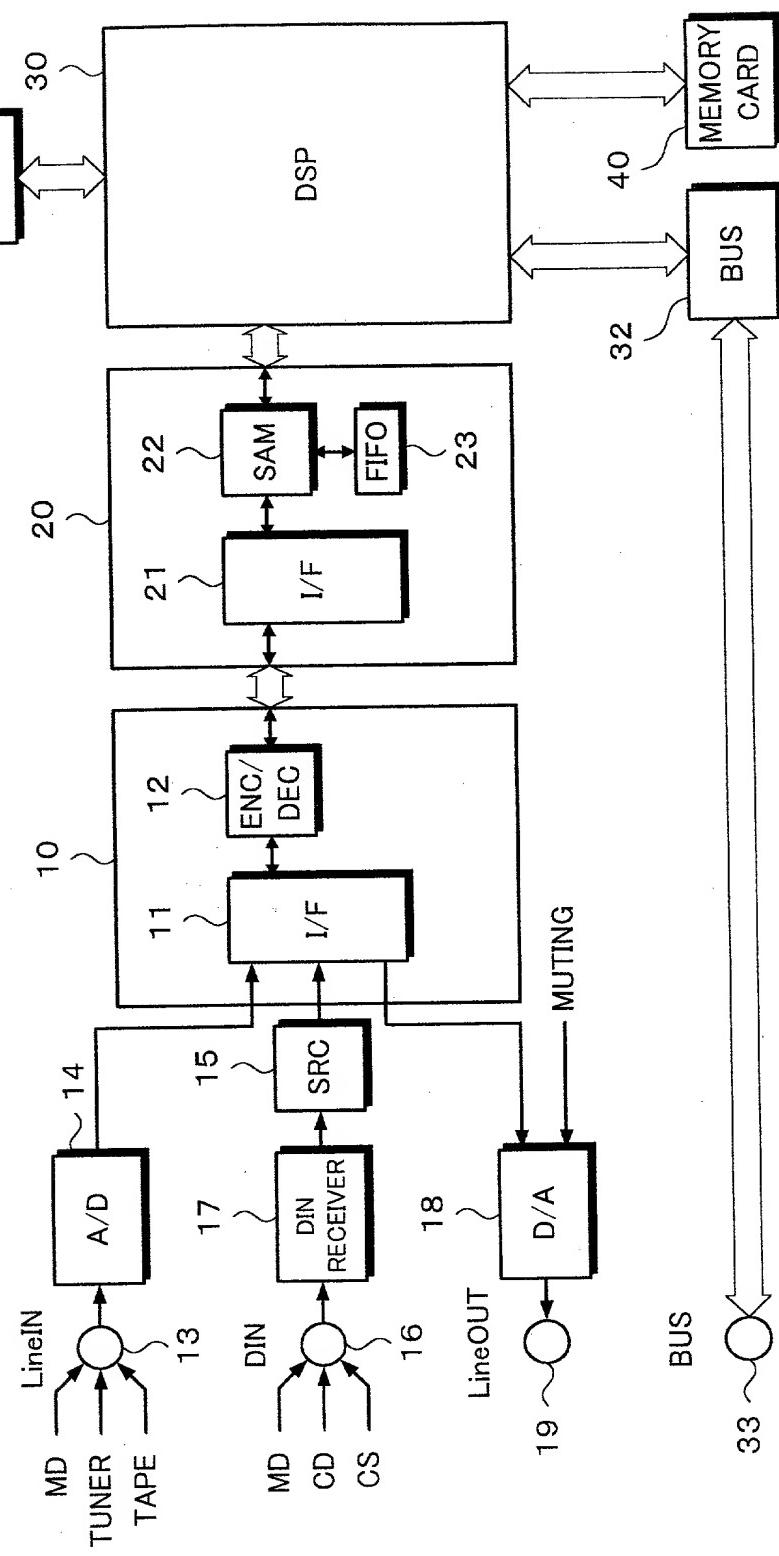


Fig. 2

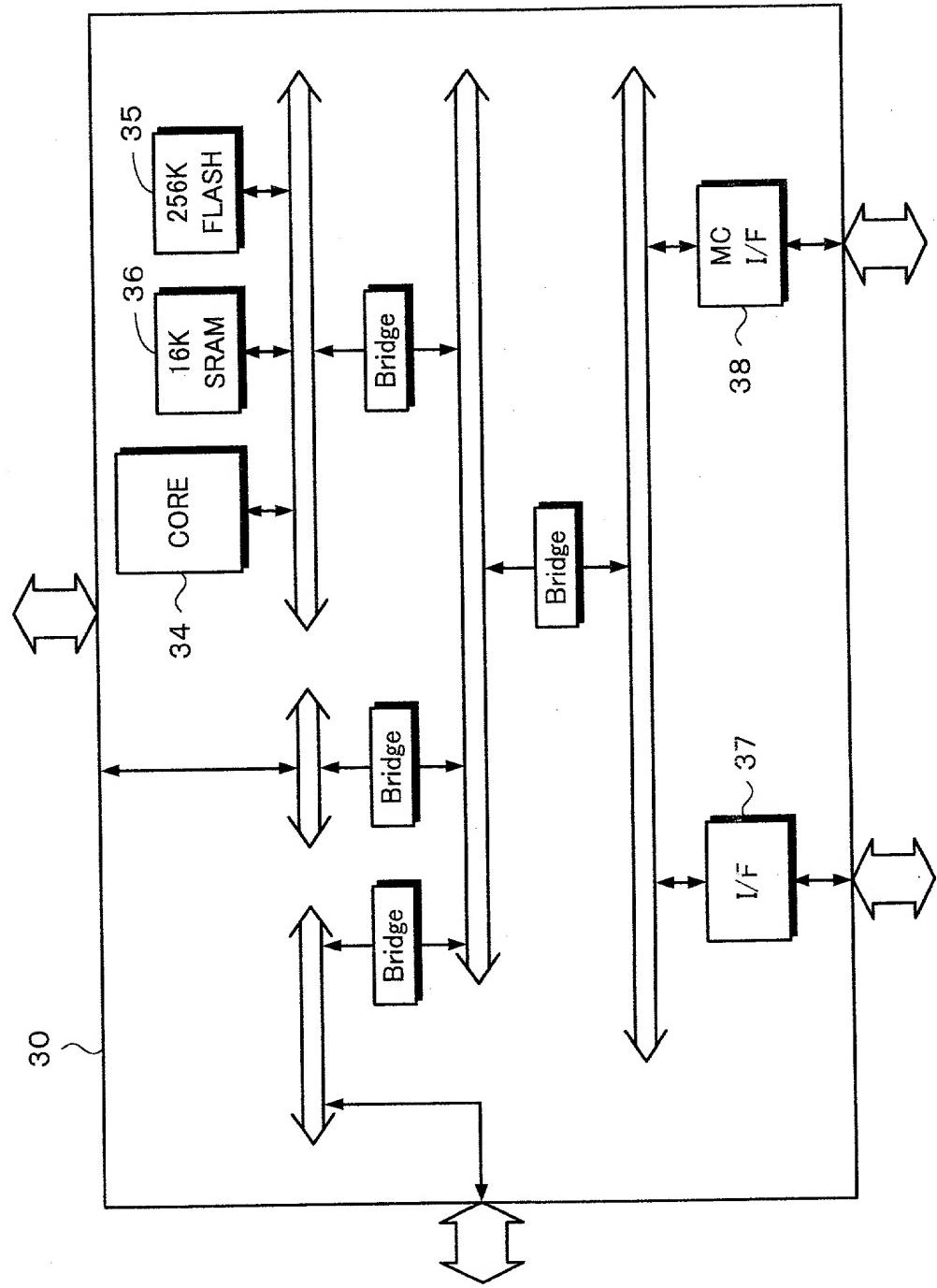


Fig. 3

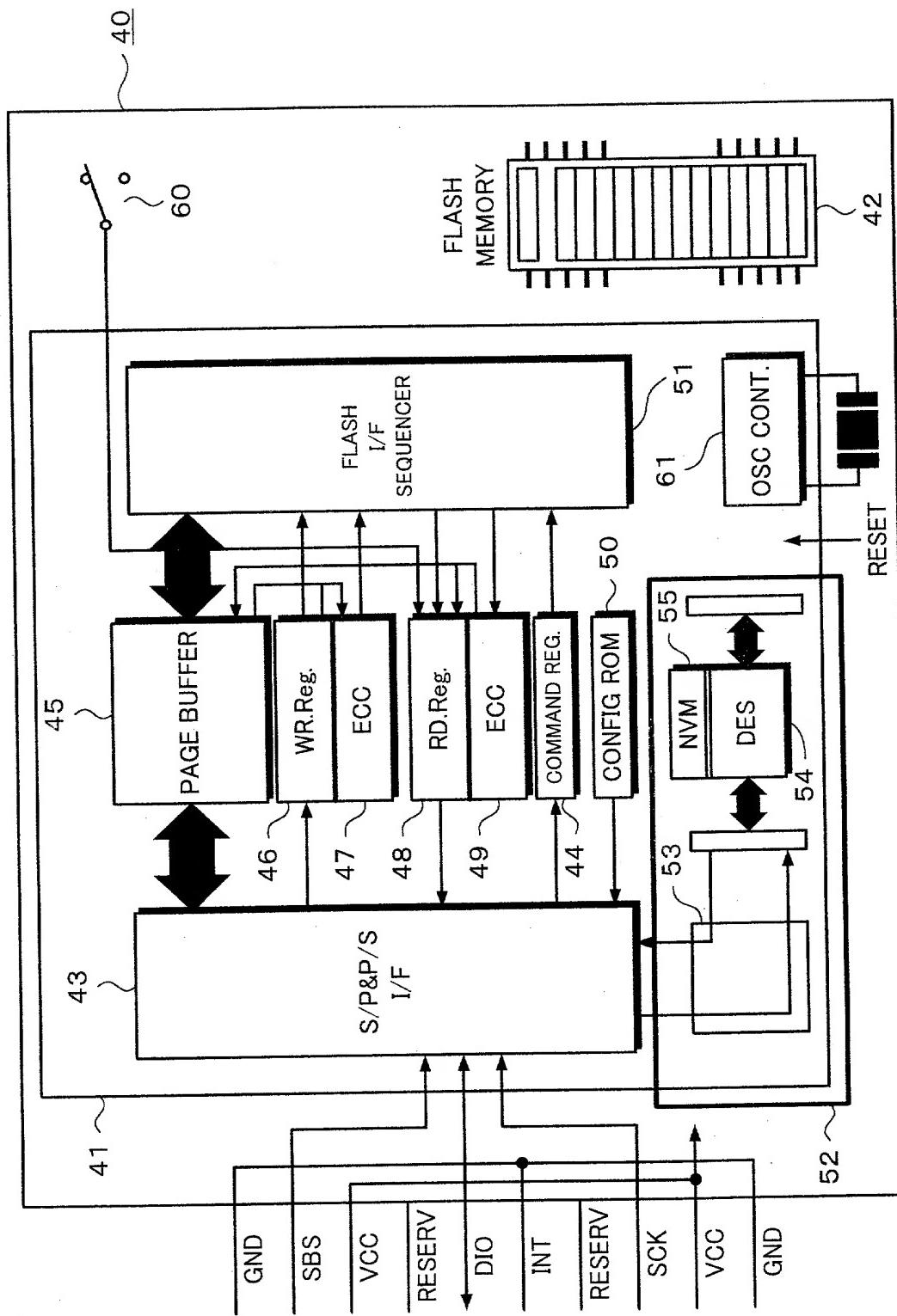


Fig. 4

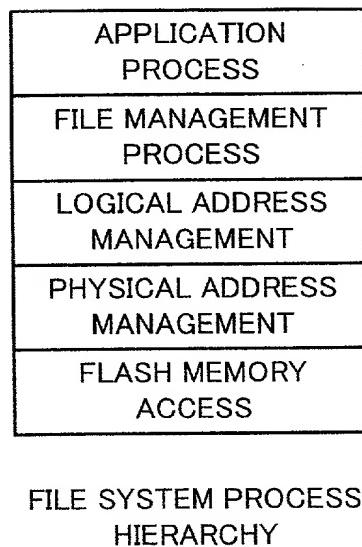


Fig. 5

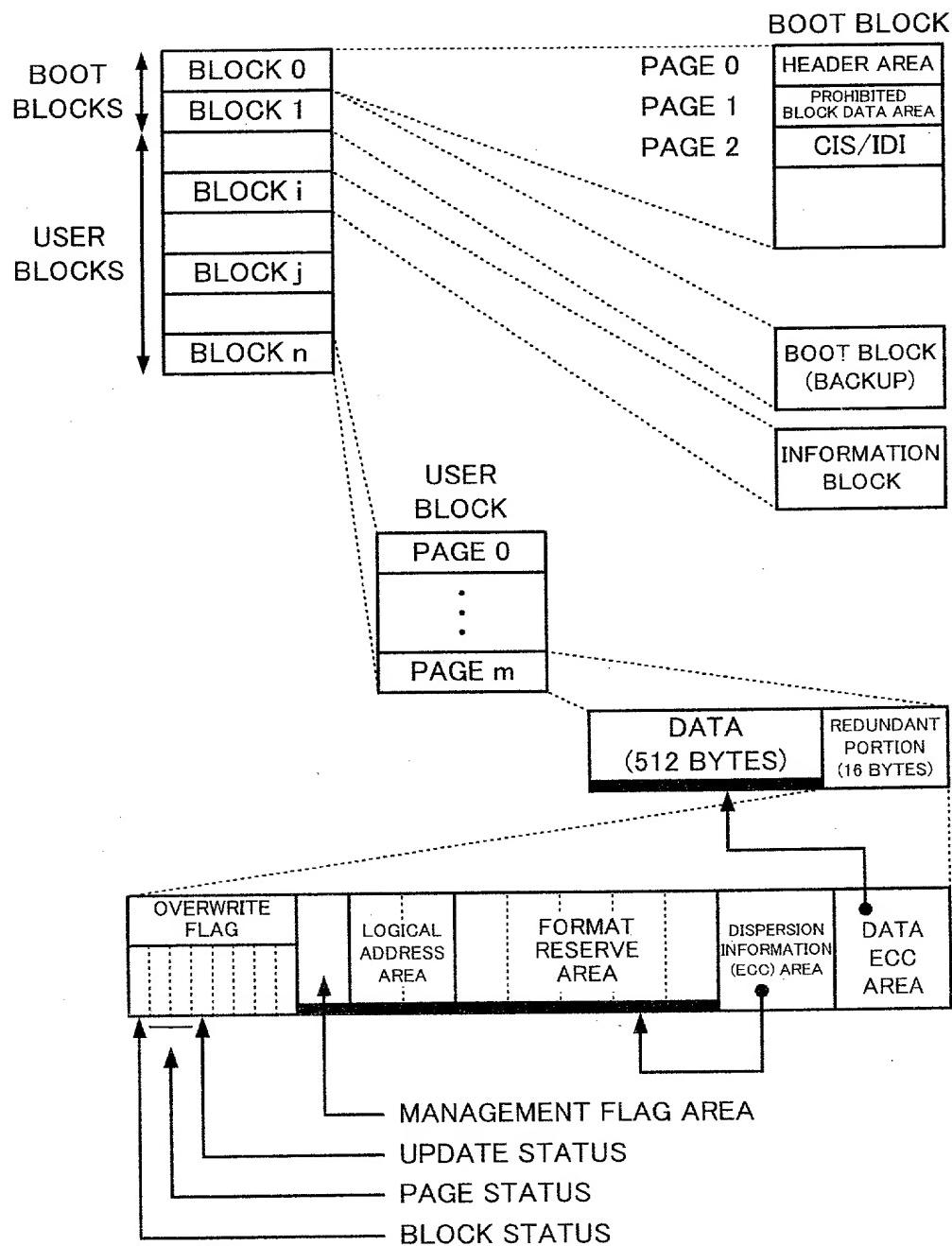


Fig. 6

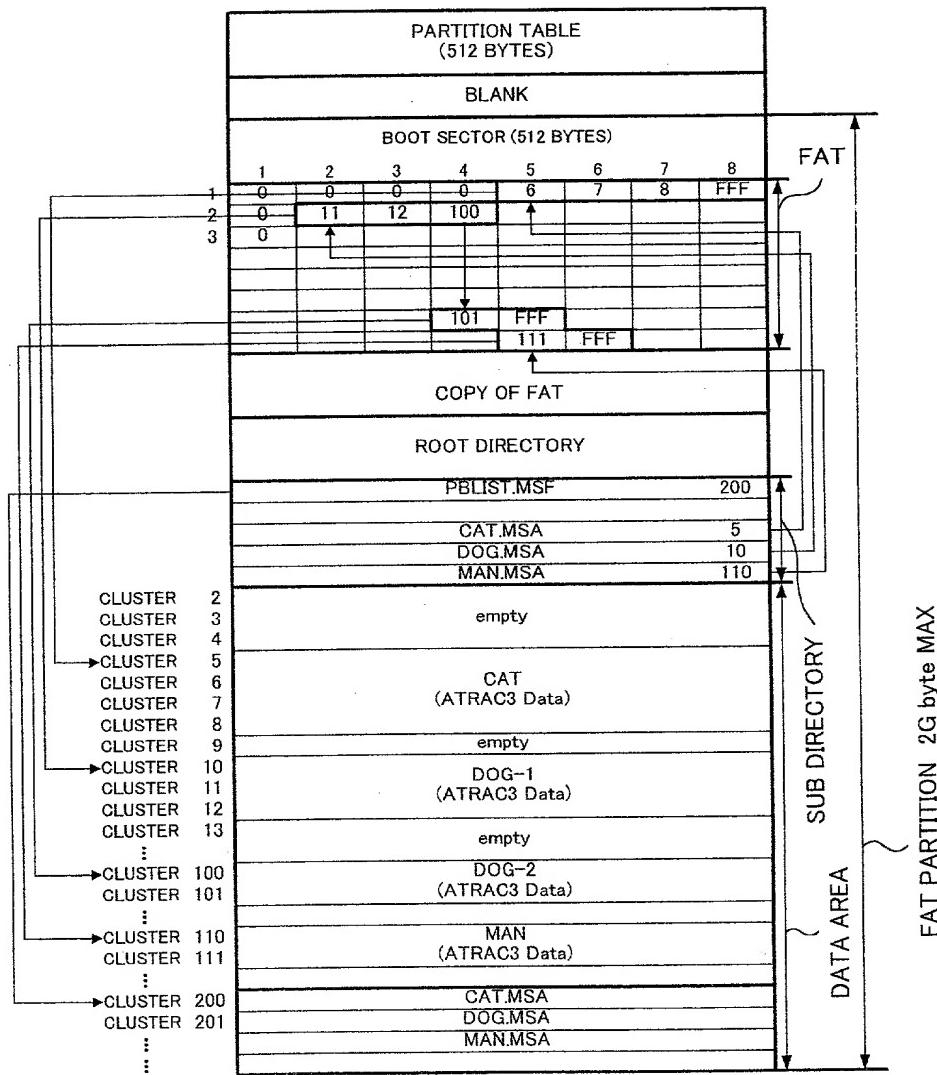


Fig. 7

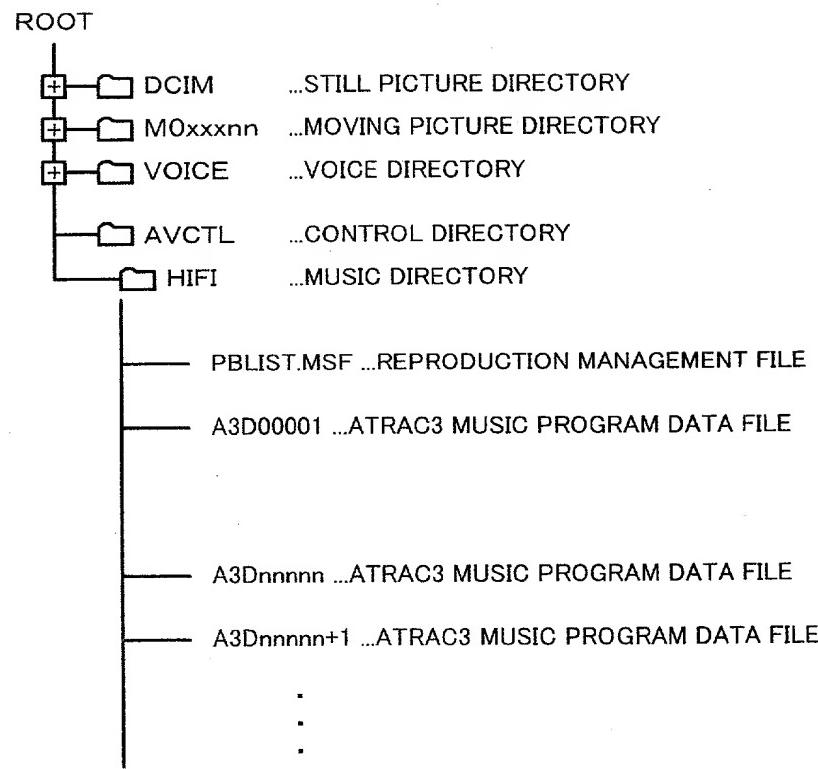


Fig. 8

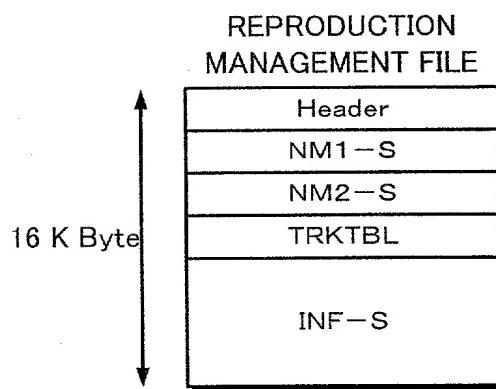


Fig. 9

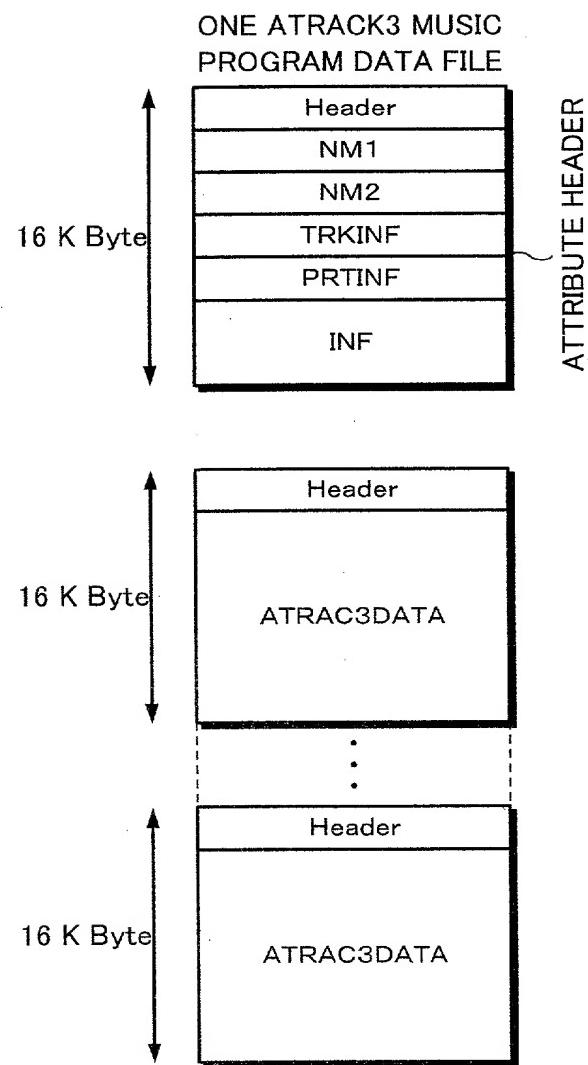


Fig. 10A

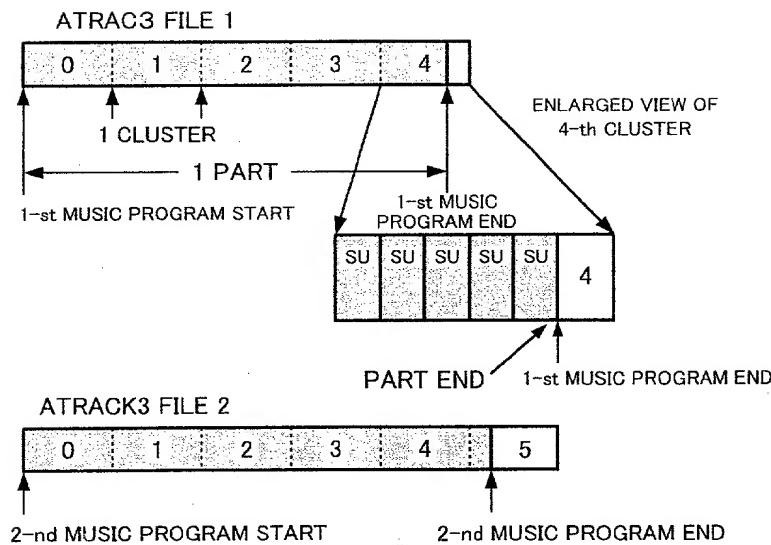


Fig. 10B

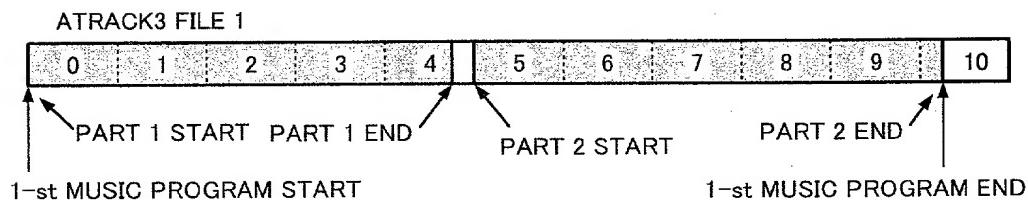


Fig. 10C

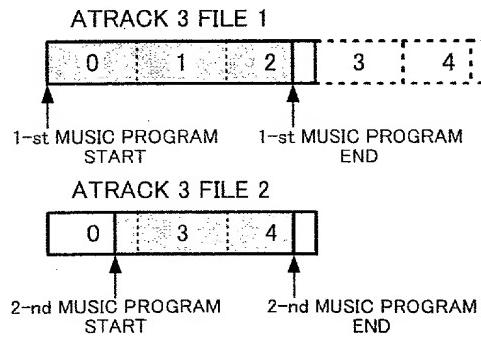


Fig. 11

REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT FILE (PBLIST)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C
0X00000	BLKID-TLO	Reserved	MCode	REVISION						D	E	F
0X00110	SN1C+L	SINFSIZE	T-TRK	VerNo						Reserved		
0X00200	NM1-S(256)									Reserved		
0X01200	NM2-S(512)											
0X03200	Reserved				CONTENTSKEY							
0X03300	Reserved				MAC							
0X03500	TRK-001	TRK-002	TRK-003	TRK-004	TRK-005	TRK-006	TRK-007	TRK-008		S-YMDhms		
	TRK-009	TRK-010	TRK-011	TRK-012	TRK-013	TRK-014	TRK-015	TRK-016				
0X06600	TRK-393	TRK-394	TRK-395	TRK-396	TRK-397	TRK-398	TRK-399	TRK-400				
0X0647	INF-S(14720)											
0X3FF00	BLKID-TLO	Reserved	MCODE	REVISION						Reserved		

Fig. 12A

Fig. 12B

0X0660	TRK-393	TRK-394	TRK-395	TRK-396	TRK-397	TRK-398	TRK-399	TRK-400
0X0670	INF-S(14720)							
0X3FF0	BLKID-TLO	Reserved	MCode	MCODE	REVISION	Reserved	DATA VARIABLE LENGTH	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	INF	0x00	ID	0x00	SIZE	MCODE	C+L	Reserved

Fig. 12C

Fig. 13

ID	MUSIC INFORMATION (CHARACTERS)		ID	URL INFORMATION (WEB INFORMATION)	
0	RESERVED		32	RESERVED	
1	ALBUM	VARIABLE	33	ALBUM	VARIABLE
2	SUBTITLE	VARIABLE	34	SUB TITLE	VARIABLE
3	ARTIST	VARIABLE	35	ARTIST	VARIABLE
4	CONDUCTOR	VARIABLE	36	CONDUCTOR	VARIABLE
5	ORCHESTRA	VARIABLE	37	ORCHESTRA	VARIABLE
6	PRODUCER	VARIABLE	38	PRODUCER	VARIABLE
7	PUBLISHER	VARIABLE	39	PUBLISHER	VARIABLE
8	COMPOSER	VARIABLE	40	COMPOSER	VARIABLE
9	SONG WRITER	VARIABLE	41	SONG WRITER	VARIABLE
10	ARRANGER	VARIABLE	42	ARRANGER	VARIABLE
11	SPONSOR	VARIABLE	43	SPONSOR	VARIABLE
12	CM	VARIABLE	44	CM	VARIABLE
13	GUIDE	VARIABLE	45	GUIDE	VARIABLE
14	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM TITLE	VARIABLE	46	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM TITLE	VARIABLE
15	ORIGINAL ALBUM TITLE	VARIABLE	47	ORIGINAL ALBUM TITLE	VARIABLE
16	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM COMPOSER	VARIABLE	48	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM COMPOSER	VARIABLE
17	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM SONG WRITER	VARIABLE	49	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM SONG WRITER	VARIABLE
18	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM ARRANGER	VARIABLE	50	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM ARRANGER	VARIABLE
19	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM PERFORMER	VARIABLE	51	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM PERFORMER	VARIABLE
20	MESSAGE	VARIABLE	52		
21	COMMENT	VARIABLE	53		
22	WARNING	VARIABLE	54		
23	GENRE	VARIABLE	55		
24			56		
25			57		
26			58		
27			59		
28			60		
29			61		
30			62		
31			63		

Fig. 14

ID	PATH/OTHERS		ID	CONTROL/NUMERIC DATA INFORMATION	
64	RESERVED		96	RESERVED	
65	PATH TO VIDEO DATA	VARIABLE	97	ISRC	8
66	PATH TO SONG DATA	VARIABLE	98	TOC_ID	8
67	PATH TO MIDI DATA	VARIABLE	99	UPC/JAN	7
68	PATH TO GUIDE DATA	VARIABLE	100	RECORDED DATE (YMDhms)	4
69	PATH TO COMMENT DATA	VARIABLE	101	RELEASED DATE	4
70	PATH TO CM DATA	VARIABLE	102	ORIGINAL MUSIC PROGRAM RELEASED DATE (YMDhms)	4
71	PATH TO FAX DATA	VARIABLE	103	RECORDED DATE (YMDhms)	4
72	PATH TO COMMUNICATION DATA 1	VARIABLE	104	SUB TRACK	4
73	PATH TO COMMUNICATION DATA 2	VARIABLE	105	AVERAGE VOLUME LEVEL	1
74	PATH TO CONTROL DATA	VARIABLE	106	RESUME	4
75			107	REPRODUCTION LOG (YMDhms)	4
76			108	NUMBER OF REPRODUCTION TIMES (FOR LEARNING)	1
77			109	PASSWORD 1	16
78			110	APPLevel	16
79			111	GENRE CODE	1
80			112	MIDI DATA	
81			113	THUMB NAIL PHOTOGRAPH DATA	
82			114	TEXT MULTIPLEXED BROADCAST DATA	
83			115	NUMBER OF TOTAL MUSIC PROGRAMS	
84			116	SET NUMBER	
85			117	NUMBER OF TOTAL SETS	
86			118	REC POSITION INFORMATION - GPS	VARIABLE
87			119	PB POSITION INFORMATION - GPS	VARIABLE
88			120	REC POSITION INFORMATION - PHS	VARIABLE
89			121	PB POSITION INFORMATION - PHS	VARIABLE
90			122	CONNECTION DESTINATION TELEPHONE NUMBER 1	VARIABLE
91			123	CONNECTION DESTINATION TELEPHONE NUMBER 2	VARIABLE
92			124	INPUT VALUE	VARIABLE
93			125	OUTPUT VALUE	VARIABLE
94			126	PB CONTROL DATA	VARIABLE
95			127	REC CONTROL DATA	VARIABLE

Fig. 15

ID	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION	
128	RESERVED	
129	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION 1	VARIABLE
130	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION 2	VARIABLE
131	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION 3	VARIABLE
132	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION 4	VARIABLE
133	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION 5	VARIABLE
134	SYNCHRONOUS REPRODUCTION INFORMATION 6	VARIABLE
135		
136		
137		
138	EMD INFORMATION 1	VARIABLE
139	EMD INFORMATION 2	VARIABLE
140		
141		
142		
143		
144		
145		
146		
147		
148		
149		
150		
151		
152		
153		
154		
155		
156		
157		
158		
159		

Fig. 16A

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
IN	0x00	ID	0x00	SIZE	Mcode	C+L	Reseved		VARIABLE LENGTH DATA							

Fig. 16B

ID	ARTIST	SIZE	ASCII ENGLISH	DATA
0x69 0x00 3 0x00 0x1C(28)		Mcode	0x01 0x09 0x00 0x00 S I M O	
N & G R A F U N K E L 0x00				

Fig. 16C

SIZE	BINARY NOT SET	ID	ISRC
0x14(20)	Mcode 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00	0x69 0x00 97 0x00	
ISRC Code 8byte			
DATA			

Fig. 16D

RECORDED DATE	SIZE	BINARY NOT SET	DATA						
0x69 0x00 103 0x00 0x10(16)	Mcode 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00	YMD hms							
745 565									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>M</td> <td>D</td> <td>h</td> <td>m</td> <td>s</td> </tr> </table> 31,30,29			Y	M	D	h	m	s	3,2,1,0bit
Y	M	D	h	m	s				

Fig. 16E

REPRODUCTION LOG	SIZE	BINARY NOT SET	DATA						
0x69 0x00 107 0x00 0x10(16)	Mcode 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00	YMD hms							
745 565									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>M</td> <td>D</td> <td>h</td> <td>m</td> <td>s</td> </tr> </table> 31,30,29			Y	M	D	h	m	s	3,2,1,0bit
Y	M	D	h	m	s				

Fig. 17

A3Dnnnn.MSA(ATRAC3 DATA FILE)

Fig. 18

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0x0000	BLKID-HD0	Reserved	MCode		Reseved											BLOCK SERIAL
0x0010	N1C+L	N2C+L	INFSIZE	T-PRT		T-SU					INX					XT
0x0020	NM1(256)															
0x0120	NM2(512)															
0x0310																

Fig. 19

0x0320	Reserved(8)		CONTENTSKEY					
	Reserved(8)		MAC					
	Reserved(12)				A	LT	FNo	
	MG(D)SERIAL-nnn							
0x0360	CONNUM	YMDhms-S	YMDhms-E	MT	CT	CC	CN	

Fig. 20

bit7:MODE OF ATRAC3 0:Dual 1:Joint

bit6,5,4 N OF 3 BITS:MODE VALUE

N	MODE	TIME	TRANSMISSION RATE	SU	BYTES
7	HQ	47min	176kbps	31SU	512
6		58min	146kbps	38SU	424
5	EX	64min	132kbps	42SU	384
4	SP	81min	105kbps	53SU	304
3		90min	94kbps	59SU	272
2	LP	128min	66kbps	84SU	192
1	mono	181min	47kbps	119SU	136
0	mono	258min	33kbps	169SU	96

bit3:Reserved

bit2:DATA TYPE 0:AUDIO 1:OTHER

bit1:REPRODUCTION SKIP 0:NORMAL REP 1:SKIP

bit0:EMPHASIS 0:OFF 1:ON(50/15 μ S)

Fig. 21

bit7	:COPY PERMISSION	0:COPY PROHIBITION	1:COPY PERMISSION
bit6	:GENERATION	0:ORIGINAL	1:FIRST OR LATER COPY GENERATION
HCMS bit5-4	:COPY CONTROL FOR HIGH SPEED DIGITAL COPY		
	00:COPY PROHIBITION	01:COPY FIRST GENERATION	10:COPY PERMISSION
	COPY OPERATION OF CHILD OF FIRST COPY GENERATION IS PROHIBITED.		
bit3-2	MagicGate AUTHENTICATION LEVEL		
	00:Level10(Non-MG)	01:Level1	
	10:Level2	11:Reserved	
	DIVIDE AND COMBINE ARE PROHIBITED IN OTHER THAN LEVEL 10.		
bit1,0	Reserved		

Fig. 22

0x0370	PRTSIZE	PRTKEY		Reserved(8)
0x0380		CONNUM0 PRTSIZE(0x0388)		PRTKEY
0x0390		Reserved(8) CONNUM0		

Fig. 23

0x4000	BLKID-A3D	Reserved	MCode	CONNUM0	BLOCK SERIAL
0x4010	BLOCK SEED		INITILIZATION VECTOR		
0x4020	SU-000(Nbyte=384byte)				

Fig. 24

Fig. 24A

Fig. 24B

Fig. 24C

Fig. 24A

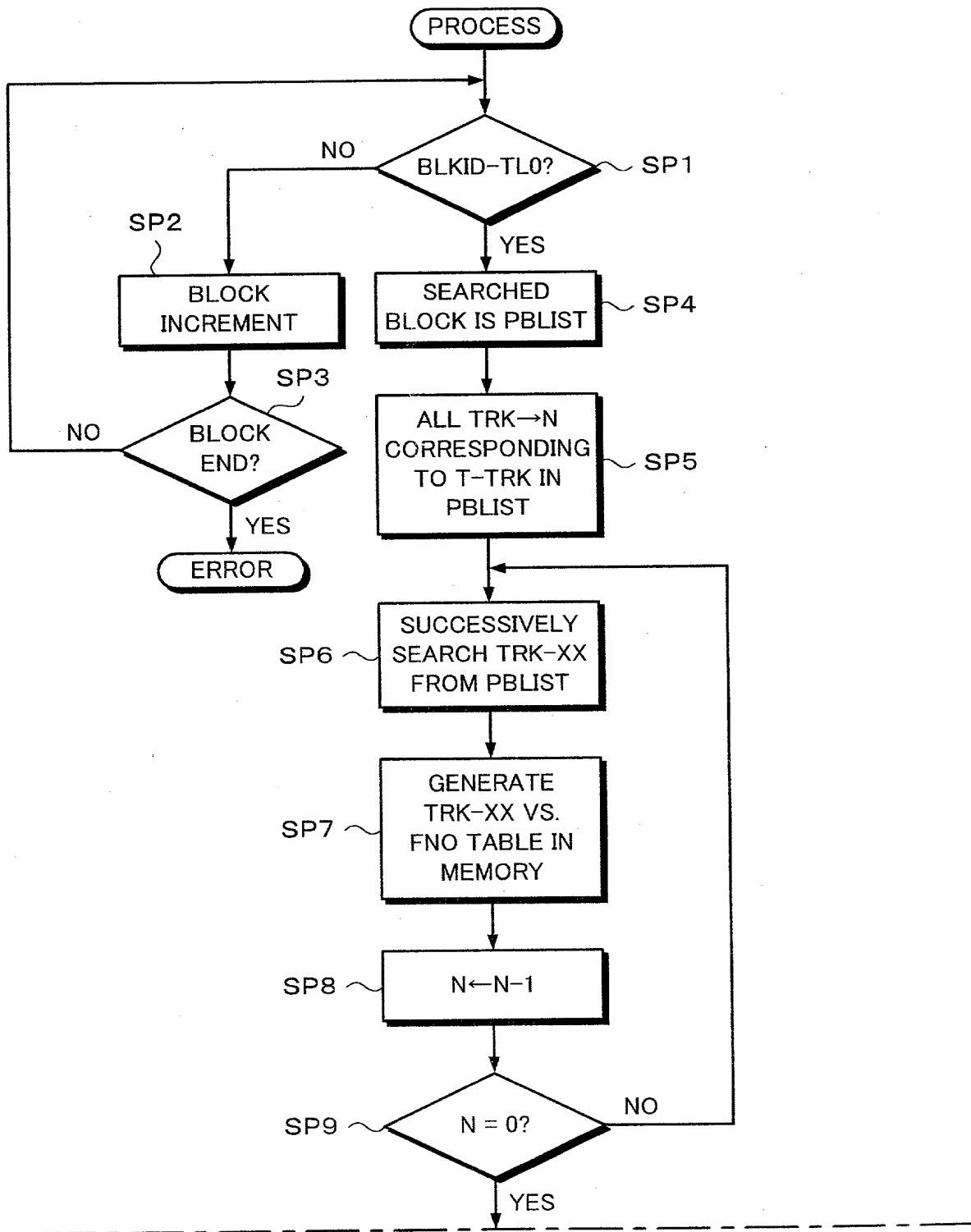


Fig. 24B

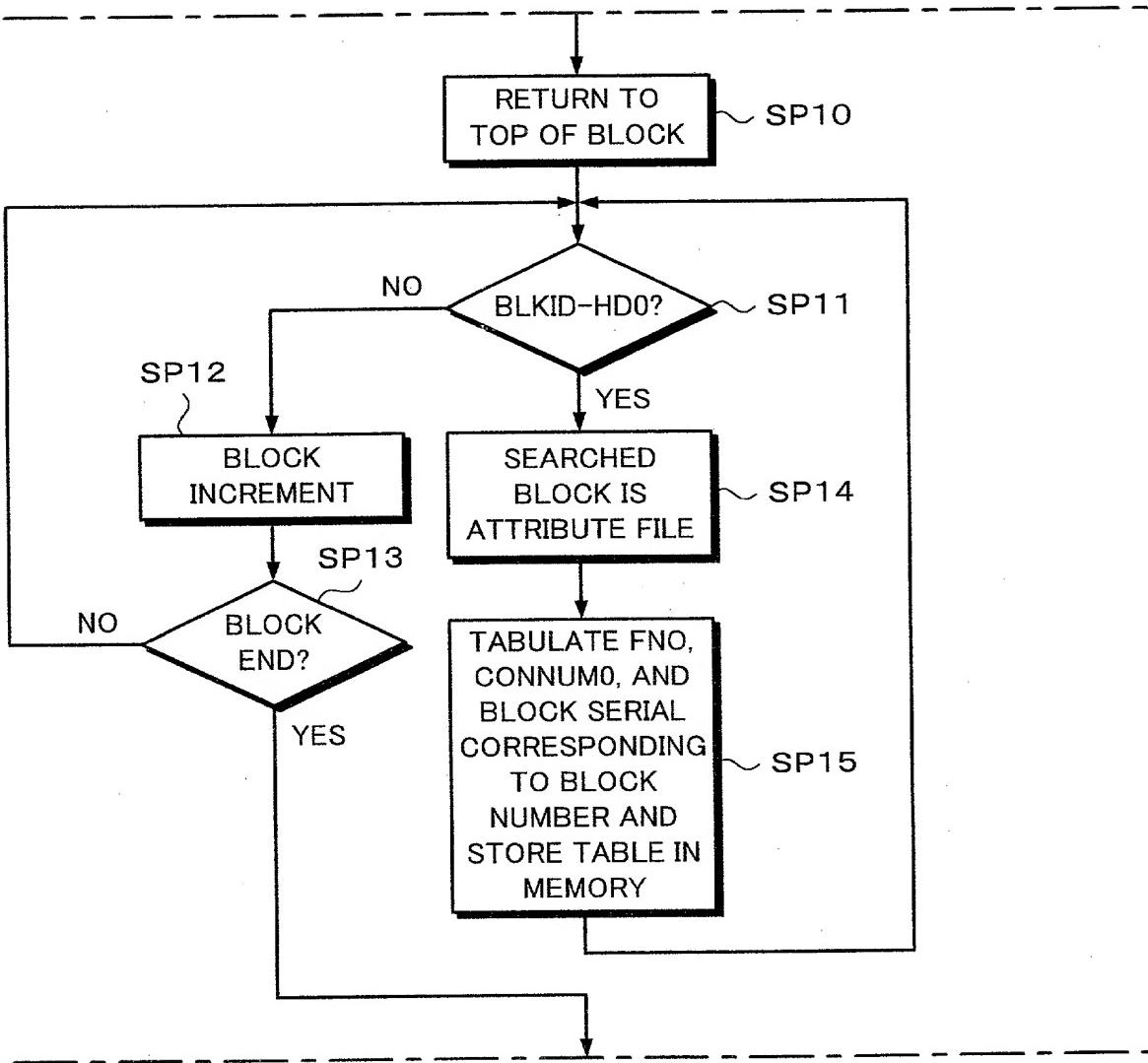


Fig. 24C

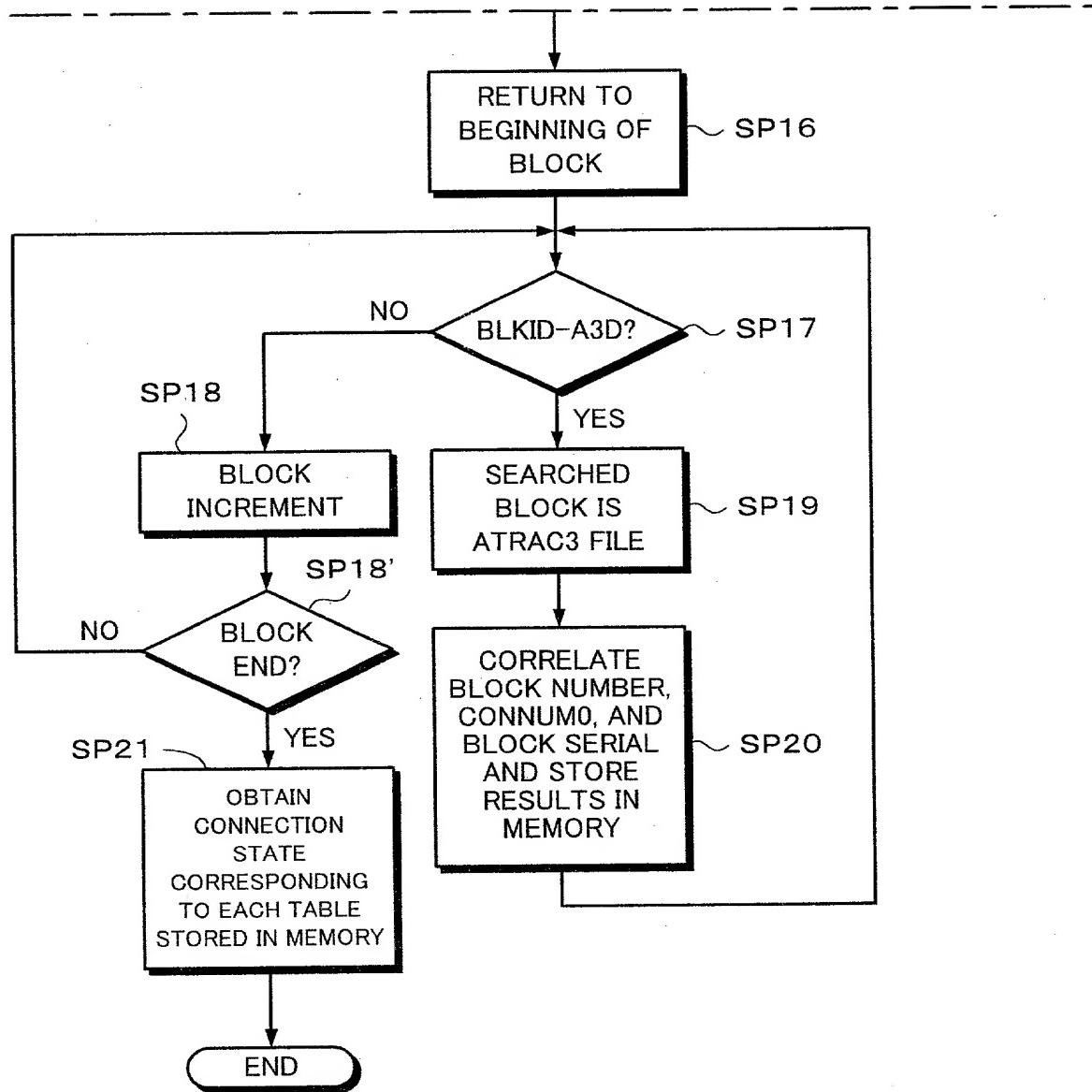


Fig. 25

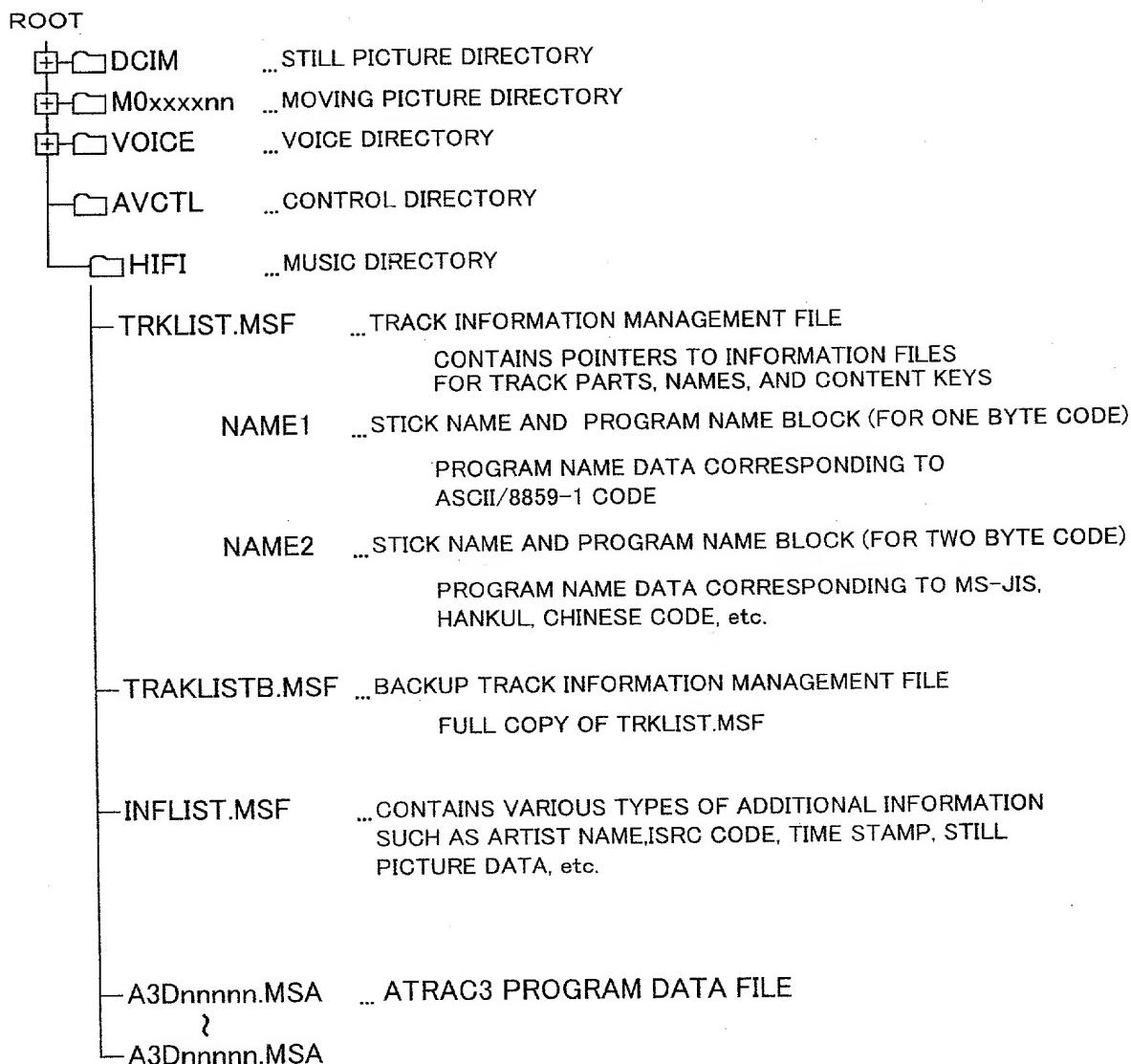


Fig. 26

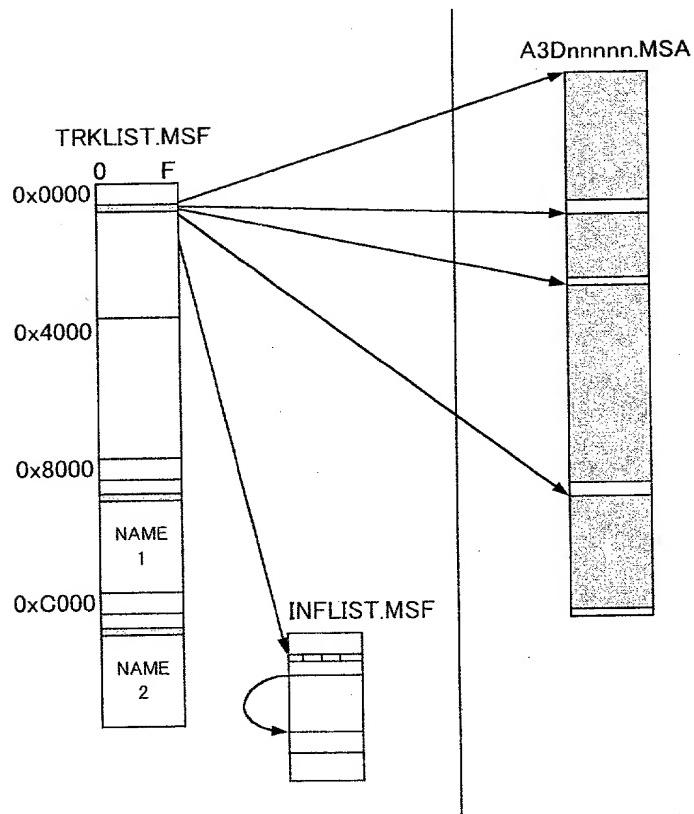


Fig. 27

TRACK INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FILE (TRKLIST.MSF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	
0x0000	BLK ID-TL0	T-TRK	MCode	REVISION				YMD h ms									
0x0010	N1	N2	MSID	S-TRK	PASS	APP	INF-S	S_YMD h ms									
0x0020	TRKINF-001																
	PRTINF-001																
	TRKINF-002																
	PRTINF-002																
	{																
0x3FF0	BLK ID-TL0		MCode	REVISION													
0x4000	BLK ID-TL1		MCode	REVISION													
	{																
DETAIL OF TRKINF-nnn/PRTINF-nnn																	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	
	TO	LT	INF	FNM-nnn				CONTENTS KEY-nnn									
	-nnn MG(D) SERIAL-nnn																
	APP_CTL		CONNUM-nnn	P-nnn				XT		INX-nnn							
	YMDhms-S		YMDhms-E	MT	CT	CC	CN			Reserved							
	PR	A-0000	PRTSIZE-0000	PRTKEY-0000													
	{																
	PR	A-nnnn	PRTSIZE-nnnn	PRTKEY-nnnn													
0x7FF0	BLK ID-TL1		MCode	REVISION													

Fig. 28

STICK NAME AND PROGRAM NAME BLOCK-FOR ONE BYTE CODE

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0x8000	BLK ID-NM1						MCode	
0x8008	PNM1-S				PNM1-001			
0x8010	PNM1-002				PNM1-003			
					S			
0x8668	PNM1-408			NM1-S				
			NM1-001					
			NM1-002					
			NM1-003					
			S					
			NM1-408					
0xBFF0								
0xBFF8	BLK ID-NM1						MCode	

Fig. 29

STICK NAME AND PROGRAM NAME BLOCK-FOR TWO-BYTE CODE

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0xC000	BLK ID-NM2						MCode	
0xC008	PNM2-S				PNM2-001			
0xC010	PNM2-002				PNM2-003			
					\$			
0xC668	PNM2-408			NM2-S				
				NM2-001				
				NM2-002				
				NM2-003				
				\$				
				NM2-408				
0xFFFF0								
0xFFFF8	BLK ID-NM2						MCode	

Fig. 30

ATRAC3 DATA FILE (A3Dnnnn.MSA) ... 1 SoundUnit=N BYTES

Fig. 31

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FILE (INFLIST.MSF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0x0000	BLK ID-INF	T-DAT	MCode		YMDhms						INF-409					
0x0010	INF-001		INF-002		INF-003						INF-004					
0x0020	INF-005		INF-006		INF-007						INF-008					
	\$		\$		\$						\$					
0x0660	INF-405		INF-406		INF-407						INF-408					
0x07F0												Reserved				
0x0800												DataSlot-0000				
0x0810												DataSlot-0001				
												\$				
0x3FF0												DataSlot-03 7F(895dec)				
0x4000												DataSlot-03 80				
												\$				
												DataSlot-FFFF (MAXIMUM VALUE)				

Fig. 32

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DATA STRUCTURE

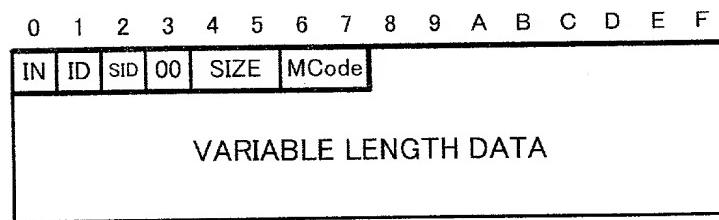


Fig. 33

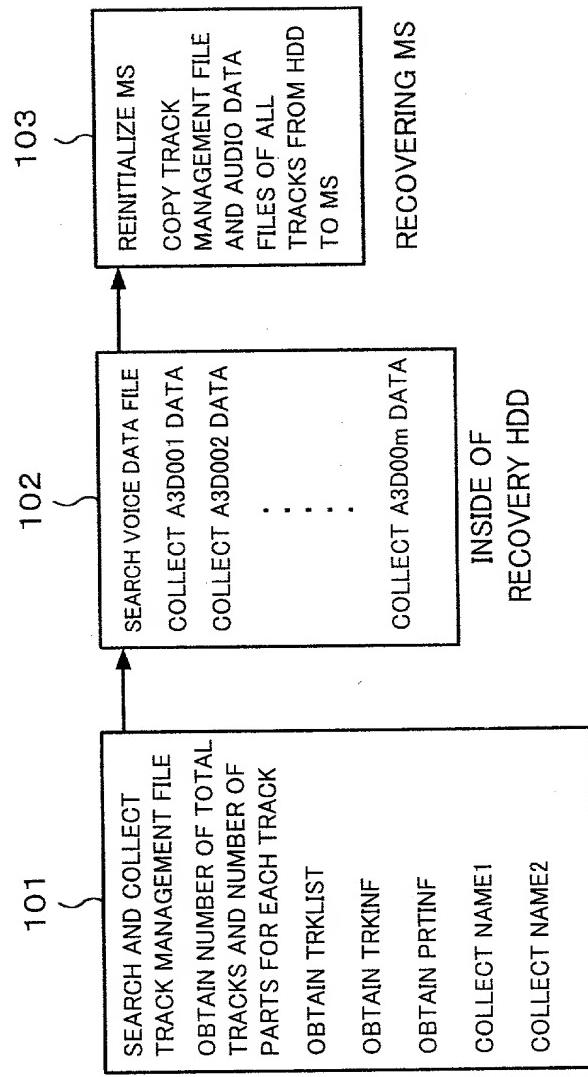


Fig. 34

RELATION BETWEEN DATA BYTES AND TRANSMISSION RATES

TRANSMISSION RATE	BYTES	BYTES	TRANSMISSION RATE	SU	SECONDS	MINUTES	Stereo(MINUTES)	Mono(MINUTES)	NUMBER OF REMAINING BYTES	NUMBER OF REMAINING SLOTS
88.2	256	512	176.4	31	2853.361	47.556	47	95	512	64
85.4	248	496	170.9	33	3037.449	50.624	50	101	16	2
82.7	240	480	165.4	34	3129.493	52.158	52	104	64	8
79.9	232	464	159.9	35	3221.537	53.692	53	107	144	18
77.2	224	448	154.4	36	3313.58	55.226	55	110	256	32
74.4	216	432	148.8	37	3405.624	56.760	56	113	400	50
MD Data	NONE	424	146.1	38	3497.668	58.294	58	NONE	272	34
71.7	208	416	143.3	39	3589.712	59.829	59	119	160	20
68.9	200	400	137.8	40	3681.756	61.363	61	122	384	48
66.2	192	384	132.3	42	3865.844	64.431	64	128	256	32
63.4	184	368	126.8	44	4049.932	67.499	67	134	192	24
60.6	176	352	121.3	46	4234.019	70.567	70	141	192	24
57.9	168	336	115.8	48	4418.107	73.635	73	147	256	32
55.1	160	320	110.3	51	4694.239	78.237	78	156	64	8
52.4	152	304	104.7	53	4878.327	81.305	81	162	272	34
49.6	144	288	99.2	56	5154.458	85.908	85	171	256	32
46.9	136	272	93.7	60	5522.634	92.044	92	184	64	8
44.1	128	256	88.2	63	5798.766	96.646	96	193	256	32
41.3	120	240	82.7	68	6258.985	104.316	104	208	64	8
38.6	112	224	77.2	72	6627.161	110.453	110	220	256	32
35.8	104	208	71.7	78	7179.424	119.657	119	239	160	20
NONE	200	68.9	81	7455.556	124.259	124	NONE	184	23	
33.1	96	192	66.2	85	7823.732	130.396	130	260	64	8
30.3	88	176	60.6	92	8468.039	141.134	141	282	192	24
27.6	80	160	55.1	102	9388.478	156.475	156	312	64	8
73	146	50.3	112	10308.92	171.815	171	343	32	4	

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION (JOINT OR SOLE)

(Under 37 CFR § 1.63; with Power of Attorney)

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

FLH File No. 450100-02414

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention ENTITLED:

NON-VOLATILE RECORD MEDIUM, RECORDING METHOD, AND RECORDING APPARATUS

the specification of which

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____,

with amendment(s) through _____ (if applicable, give dates).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s) [list additional applications on separate page]: Priority Claimed:

Number:	Country:	Filed (Day/Month/Year):	Yes	No
11-086309	Japan	29 March 1999	X	
11-190529	Japan	5 July 1999	X	
2000-038814	Japan	16 February 2000	X	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Prior U.S. Application(s) [list additional applications on separate page]:

Appln. Ser. Number: Filed (Day/Month/Year): Status (patented, pending, abandoned):

I hereby appoint WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Registration No. 25,506, and DENNIS M. SMID, Registration No. 34,930 or their duly appointed associate, my attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to file continuation and divisional applications thereof, to receive the Patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office and in the Courts in connection therewith, and specify that all communications about the application are to be directed to the following correspondence address:

WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Esq.
c/o FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
765 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

Direct all telephone calls to:
(212) 588-0800
to the attention of:
WILLIAM S. FROMMER

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

INVENTOR(S):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of sole or first inventor: Teppei YOKOTA
Residence: Chiba, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of 2nd joint inventor (if any): Nobuyuki KIHARA
Residence: Tokyo, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full name of 3rd joint inventor (if any):
Residence:
Citizenship:

[Similarly list additional inventors on separate page]

Post Office Address(es) of inventor(s): Sony Corporation
[If all inventors have the same post office address] 7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-chome
Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

Note: In order to qualify for reduced fees available to Small Entities, each inventor and any other individual or entity having rights to the invention must also sign an appropriate separate "Verified Statement (Declaration) Claiming [or Supporting a Claim by Another for] Small Entity Status" form [e.g. for Independent Inventor, Small Business Concern, Nonprofit Organization, individual Non-Inventor].

Note: A post office address must be provided for each inventor.